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A COMPARISON OF THE AUTOMATIC SHOULDER BELT/KNEE BOLSTER RESTRAINT SYSTEM WITH THE LAP AND SHOULDER BELT SYSTEM IN VW RABBITS

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| 16. Abstract <p>The primary objective of this research is to assess the (A+K)-injury reducing effectiveness of the VW Rabbit automatic shoulder belt/knee bolster system using statewide police-reported accident data. The analyses are aimed at answering questions about (1) injury rate differences (manual vs automatic); (2) restraint usage rate differences; (3) performance differences between systems (when used); (4) the proportion of injury rate reduction attributable to restraint usage rate differences; and (5) adequacy of state accident data to carry out such investigations.</p> <p>The study data consists of 10,336 accidents involving VW Rabbits during the period 1975-1979 in New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Colorado, Alabama and South Carolina. The analyses generally involved the following: (1) investigation of potential biases arising from missing belt usage cases; (2) identifying confounding variables by variable screening and then smoothing the data using weighted least squares procedures for categorical data; and (3) examination of the components of the overall (A+K)-injury rate reduction, namely components due to usage rate differences, belt system differences and sample variation.</p> <p>For the primary analyses (NY, NC, MD, CO), the range of usage rates was 16.6% to 41.6% for manual belts versus 43.1% to 73.7% for automatic belts. Occupants in automatic belt Rabbits experienced 20 to 30 percent fewer (A+K)-injuries than their counterparts in Rabbits with conventional 3-point belt systems. The overriding factor for this reduction was the increase (at least two-fold) in the belt usage rates in the automatic belt Rabbits. When used, the two belt systems are equally effective in preventing serious injuries. (continue on next page)</p> | | | |
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Abstract (cont.)

Although there is some variability in the results across states due to differences in reporting thresholds, variable differences, missing data rates, police reporting errors, etc., the reasonable consistency of the results between states suggests a reasonable adequacy of state accident data in addressing a question such as posed herein. In point of fact, alternative data is not yet available.

| Approximate Conversions from Metric Measures | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| When You Know | Multiply by | To Find | Symbol |
| LENGTH | | | |
| millimeters | 0.04 | inches | in |
| centimeters | 0.4 | inches | in |
| meters | 3.3 | feet | ft |
| meters | 1.1 | yards | yd |
| kilometers | 0.6 | miles | mi |
| AREA | | | |
| square centimeters | 0.16 | square inches | in ² |
| square meters | 1.2 | square yards | yd ² |
| square kilometers | 0.4 | square miles | mi ² |
| hectares (10 000 m ²) | 2.5 | acres | ac |
| MASS (weight) | | | |
| grams | 0.025 | ounces | oz |
| kilograms | 2.2 | pounds | lb |
| tonnes (1000 kg) | 1.1 | short tons | ton |
| VOLUME | | | |
| milliliters | 0.03 | fluid ounces | fl oz |
| liters | 2.1 | pints | pt |
| liters | 1.06 | quarts | qt |
| liters | 0.26 | gallons | gal |
| cubic meters | 36 | cubic feet | ft ³ |
| cubic meters | 1.3 | cubic yards | yd ³ |
| TEMPERATURE (exact) | | | |
| °C | 9/5 (then add 32) | Fahrenheit temperature | °F |

| Approximate Conversions to Metric Measures | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| When You Know | Multiply by | To Find | Symbol |
| LENGTH | | | |
| inches | 2.5 | centimeters | cm |
| feet | 30 | centimeters | cm |
| yards | 0.9 | meters | m |
| miles | 1.6 | kilometers | km |
| AREA | | | |
| square inches | 6.5 | square centimeters | cm ² |
| square feet | 0.09 | square meters | m ² |
| square yards | 0.8 | square meters | m ² |
| square miles | 2.6 | square kilometers | km ² |
| acres | 0.4 | hectares | ha |
| MASS (weight) | | | |
| ounces | 28 | grams | g |
| pounds | 0.45 | kilograms | kg |
| short tons (2000 lb) | 0.9 | tonnes | t |
| VOLUME | | | |
| teaspoons | 5 | milliliters | ml |
| tablespoons | 16 | milliliters | ml |
| fluid ounces | 30 | milliliters | ml |
| cups | 0.24 | liters | l |
| pints | 0.47 | liters | l |
| quarts | 0.96 | liters | l |
| gallons | 3.8 | liters | l |
| cubic feet | 0.03 | cubic meters | m ³ |
| cubic yards | 0.76 | cubic meters | m ³ |
| TEMPERATURE (exact) | | | |
| Fahrenheit temperature | 5/9 (after subtracting 32) | Celsius temperature | °C |

1 in. = 2.54 exactly. For other exact conversions, see more tables, see NBS M. Units of Length and Measures. Price \$2.25. SO (later) No. C13.10.286. Publ. 286

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208: Occupant Crash Protection (effective January 1, 1968) required the installation of lap and shoulder seat belt assemblies at the front outboard seating positions in all cars (except convertibles) and lap belt assemblies at all other designated seating positions. However, despite the proven effectiveness of safety belts in reducing the level of injury of persons involved in automobile crashes, the overwhelming majority of Americans have continued to choose not to buckle up. Clearly, the life-saving potential of FMVSS 208 has not been realized.

Considering alternative strategies, NHTSA has initiated rulemaking to require automatic occupant crash protection to be built into new cars, since passage of mandatory belt usage laws in the United States has not appeared likely. Among the wide array of passive occupant systems (transparent shields, nets, cushions, arms and barrier, seat belts, integrated seat designs, blankets) developed in the early 1970's, the air bag system as well as the automatic seat belt system have emerged as the most likely automatic restraint systems to satisfy the currently amended FMVSS 208.

Both systems have been extensively tested in laboratory crash situations but field evaluations have been rather limited -- in the air bag case by relatively few air bag cars in operation. The primary objective of this research is to assess the (A+K)-injury reducing effectiveness of the VW Rabbit automatic shoulder belt/knee bolster system using statewide police-reported accident data. The analyses are aimed at answering questions about

- (i) Injury rate differences (Manual vs. Automatic)
- (ii) Restraint usage rate differences
- (iii) Performance differences between systems (when used)
- (iv) The proportion of injury rate reduction attributable to restraint usage rate differences
- (v) Adequacy of state accident data to carry out such investigations.

The study data consists of VW Rabbit accident data (N=10,336) for the period 1975-1979 from New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Colorado, Alabama and South Carolina. These states were selected since their computerized accident data files contained the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) which is necessary to identify not only make and model of vehicle (i.e., VW Rabbit) but also

available restraint system (i.e., manual vs. automatic). Due to data limitations (quantity and quality), the primary analyses are based on data from New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado.

No attempt has been made to combine data across states due to slightly different definitions of variables (e.g., definition of A-injury), differing reporting thresholds among the states, and occasionally differing distributions of the data among the states (e.g., the "drivable" variable). However, by using the (A+K) injury criterion, there are reasonable sample sizes within each of the states (ranging from 1924 occupants in Colorado to 5046 in New York) with the police determination of A or K injuries appearing to be quite reliable.

The analysis procedures were essentially the same for each state. First, since belt usage is such an important variable and it was missing in from 10 to 15 percent of the cases for the four primary states, an analysis was carried out to see if these missing belt usage cases occur essentially at random; i.e., that they do not introduce any serious biases in the data.

Secondly, in all accident data analyses there are certain variables that interact with the variables of interest -- here, restraint type and serious injury. To the extent allowable by the data, the effect of these confounding variables identified by variable screening procedures was removed by smoothing the data using categorical data models (i.e., weighted least squares procedures via the GENCAT computer program).

Finally, there is not only interest in the overall (A+K)-injury reduction but also the effect of various components such as usage rate differences and restraint system differences. It can be demonstrated that, after properly controlling for the most relevant confounding factors, the overall injury rate reduction can algebraically be decomposed into three components. The first component is attributable to restraint usage rate differences, the second component attributable to system differences, and the third component to sample variation (or residual). Estimates of these effects were then derived for New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado using the GENCAT program.

Although the unknown belt usage rates are 15.5 percent, 9.5 percent, 13.0 percent and 10.5 percent for New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado, respectively, analysis of these cases indicated no systematic biases that would invalidate the results. Indeed, the unknown belt cases appear to arise essentially randomly in each of the states with respect to the other variables of interest.

In each of the states, among the most important confounding variables to control for were restraint usage and number of vehicles involved (single vs. multi). This consistency increased the confidence in the screening procedure utilized.

Restraint usage rates by system type and state are presented in Table T.1. Although the usage rates differ considerably among the states, the ratio of the

Table T.1
Restraint usage rates by system type and state

| State | Restraint Usage Rate | | |
|-------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| | Manual (s.e.) R_M | Automatic (s.e.) R_A | Ratio R_M/R_A |
| NY | 28.96 (1.67) | 57.25 (1.84) | 0.506 |
| NC | 16.63 (1.10) | 43.08 (2.66) | 0.386 |
| MD | 41.60 (1.20) | 73.70 (1.83) | 0.564 |
| CO | 29.37 (2.24) | 46.13 (3.97) | 0.637 |

rates between belt systems (.506, .386, .564, .637 for NY, NC, MD, CO, respectively) remains reasonably constant with, as expected, a considerable increase in usage with the automatic restraint systems.

Overall (A+K)-injury rates by system type and state are given in Table T.2 along with (A+K)-injury rate reduction effectiveness estimates. Again, the

Table T.2
Overall (A+K) injury rates and effectiveness estimates by system type and state

| State | Overall (A+K) Injury Rate | | | Effectiveness (%) |
|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---|
| | Manual (s.e.) I_M | Automatic (s.e.) I_A | Ratio I_M/I_A | $\frac{I_M - I_A}{I_M} \times 100$ (s.e.) |
| NY | 6.33 (0.41) | 5.24 (0.72) | 1.2 | 17.27 (12.30) |
| NC | 5.21 (0.65) | 3.83 (1.05) | 1.4 | 26.38 (22.06) |
| MD | 2.95 (0.41) | 1.84 (0.56) | 1.6 | 37.61 (20.79) |
| CO | 5.07 (0.98) | 4.12 (1.17) | 1.2 | 18.78 (27.03) |

serious injury rates differ among states due to a combination of the factors -- crash severity differences, reporting threshold differences, reporting errors, and definitional differences in A-injuries. Nonetheless, the ratio (I_M/I_A) is quite constant across states (1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.2, respectively).

Table T.3 provides the estimates (s.e.) of the various components of the serious injury rate reduction; i.e., the components due to restraint usage rate differences, system differences, and sample variation (or residual). To the extent that the serious injury rates are significantly reduced (depending upon the α -level selected) for the automatic Rabbit, the consistent and significant component leading to this reduction is the increased belt usage level for the automatic Rabbit. It would seem that the two systems, when used, are equally effective in reducing serious injuries. It is also apparent from the estimates of sample variation that the most important factors have been accounted for in this analysis.

Not unexpectedly, there are a variety of pros and cons in using state accident data to address questions such as the serious injury reduction of automatic belt systems in VW Rabbits. In spite of many limitations and qualifications, it currently represents the only possible accident data base with which to even begin to answer the question. As is seen in the analysis, there are many reasons for not combining such data across states. Nevertheless, the analysis within multiple states with reasonable data quality does allow for an examination of the consistency of results between states and increases the confidence placed in the results of the analysis. Because of a variety of differences between states (e.g., reporting thresholds, variable definitions, nature of computerized files, missing data rates, police reporting errors), it is to be expected that there will be variability in the estimates derived. The extent and acceptability of this variation for the particular analysis being carried out should then define the answer to the question of the usefulness of state accident data in addressing the question. For the present study, after careful consideration of these factors it is felt that the analyses of New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado data provide most useful and otherwise unavailable input into answering the questions posed.

In summary, from this real-world accident data from New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado, occupants in automatic belt Rabbits experienced some 20 to 30 percent fewer (A+K) injuries than their counterparts in Rabbits with conventional 3-point belt systems. The overriding factor for this reduction was an increase (at least two-fold) in the belt usage rates in the automatic belt Rabbits.

Table T.3

Estimates of the components of the overall serious injury rate reduction

| | Estimate (s.e.) | 95% Confidence Interval | Percentage Relative to Overall (A+K)-Injury for Manual Rabbit (s.e.) |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| <u>Overall (A+K)-Injury Rate Reduction ($I_M - I_A$)</u> | | | |
| NY | 1.09% (0.81%) | (-0.50%, 2.68%) | 17.27% (12.30%) |
| NC | 1.38% (1.23%) | (-1.17%, 3.63%) | 26.38% (22.06%) |
| MD | 1.11% (0.69%) | (-0.24%, 2.46%) | 37.61% (20.79%) |
| CO | 0.95% (1.47%) | (-0.97%, 2.87%) | 18.78% (27.03%) |
| <u>Component Attributed to Restraint Usage Rate Differences</u> | | | |
| NY | 1.22% (0.23%)* | (0.77%, 1.67%) | 19.27% (3.34%)* |
| NC | 0.85% (0.45%)** | (-0.02%, 1.72%) | 16.33% (8.40%)** |
| MD | 0.46% (0.26%)** | (-0.05%, 0.97%) | 15.55% (8.66%)** |
| CO | 0.70% (0.36%)** | (-0.01%, 1.41%) | 13.87% (7.81%)** |
| <u>Component Attributed to System Differences</u> | | | |
| NY | -0.22% (0.56%) | (-1.32%, 0.88%) | -3.48% (8.85%) |
| NC | -0.35% (0.87%) | (-2.07%, 1.36%) | -6.81% (17.12%) |
| MD | 0.74% (0.55%) | (-0.34%, 1.82%) | 25.21% (17.61%) |
| CO | -0.57% (0.84%) | (-2.20%, 1.06%) | -11.31% (16.79%) |
| <u>Component Attributed to Sample Variation (Residual)</u> | | | |
| NY | 0.09% (0.58%) | (-1.05%, 1.23%) | 1.48% (7.92%) |
| NC | 0.88% (0.90%) | (-0.89%, 2.64%) | 16.87% (16.62%) |
| MD | -0.09% (0.44%) | (-0.96%, 0.77%) | -3.15% (14.88%) |
| CO | 0.82% (1.30%) | (-1.73%, 2.65%) | 16.22% (23.63%) |

*Significant at $\alpha = 0.05$ **Significant at $\alpha = 0.10$

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Background

In 1966 Congress enacted the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, giving the Secretary of Transportation the authority to issue federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSS's) directed at reducing motor vehicle accidents and the deaths and injuries resulting from them. The legislation was part of an "aggressive highway safety program" that also included the creation of the current National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). NHTSA was delegated the responsibility of designing, implementing and evaluating the safety standards. In the past 15 years over 50 safety standards have been promulgated following federal rulemaking procedures.

One of the earliest standards issued was FMVSS 208 - Occupant Crash Protection. This standard has required the installation of lap and shoulder seat belt assemblies at the front outboard seating positions in all cars (except convertibles) and lap belt assemblies at all other designated seating positions. The standard became effective January 1, 1968.

FMVSS 208 has differed from most other standards in that its effectiveness has depended on the willingness of the occupant to utilize the available safety equipment. Despite the proven effectiveness of safety belts in reducing the level of injury of persons involved in automobile crashes, the overwhelming majority of Americans have continued to choose not to buckle up. The most recent estimates by NHTSA have placed seat belt usage for drivers in the general population at 11 percent, and the figure for other occupants in the car is even lower. Clearly, the life-saving benefits of FMVSS 208 have not been realized.

One "solution" to this problem which was applied to 1974 model vehicles was to require an ignition interlock system, with the car wired so that it would not start unless the seat belt had been buckled. This drew such strong adverse reaction from the public that the requirement was quickly rescinded by Congress. Another alternative which has been adopted in at least 23 foreign countries with considerably more success is mandatory belt usage laws. In countries that have passed such laws and have also instigated some visible program of enforcement, results have been most encouraging. In Australia, for example, belt usage has been observed at 80-90 percent (McDermott and Hough, 1979). In addition, public reaction to mandatory belt usage laws in these countries has generally been favorable.

Given the current political environment in the United States it is doubtful that, with the exception of child restraint legislation, widespread mandatory belt usage laws will be enacted. Realizing this the NHTSA as early as 1969 initiated rulemaking to require automatic occupant crash protection to be built into new cars. Such automatic or passive restraints would not require any action on the part of the motor vehicle occupant to be effective.

In response to this policy the early 1970's witnessed the development of a wide array of passive occupant restraint systems in the form of transparent shields, nets, cushions, arms and barriers, seat belts, integrated seat designs, and blankets. Many of these are described in a report to NHTSA by Beta Industries, Inc. (Phillips, 1973). In the study, patent, literature and manufacturer surveys were conducted to gather information on passive restraint systems "other than inflatables." Approximately 40 different systems are described, including

- a net device stored in the roof of the car and extracted into position around the passenger compartment by spring loaded actuators;
- an inverted U-shaped safety shield made of a flexible transparent material detachably secured to the seat belt and anchored at the ceiling and at the floor attachment points to the seat belts;
- a cushioned panel deployed from the dashboard that swings into position in front of the torso;
- a "floating arm" that consists of a cushioned pad resting in the chest area, held there by light pressure and pivoted from the floor;
- inflatable flexible arms that are able to grasp the occupant over the shoulders and around the waist;
- the Firestone Safety Blanket, automatically pulled up against the chest in the event of a crash;
- the Kinematic Safety Seat system, which upon impact automatically tilts the seat bench and back so that the spine is in a reclined position; and
- a variety of passive belt systems patented in the U.S., Sweden, West Germany, Japan and Italy, including several inflatable belt systems.

From this early barrage of passive restraint innovations, two primary systems have emerged as practical and effective alternatives to manual or

active seat belts. These are the General Motor's air bag and Volkswagen's automatic belt system. Both have been extensively tested in laboratory crash situations, and have also been sold to the public in sufficient numbers to permit limited field evaluation. The GM air bag was first made available on 1000 1973 model Chevrolets and then also on certain luxury model cars during 1974-76, with the result that today there are an estimated 10,000 GM air bag vehicles on the road. Air bags have also been available on some Volvos and some 831 1971 model Ford Mercurys. Volkswagen Rabbits equipped with automatic belt systems were first introduced in 1975, and current U.S. sales total approximately 300,000. A similar sort of automatic belt system has also been available on certain GM Chevettes since the 1978 model.

As currently amended, FMVSS 208 requires that automatic or passive restraints be available on all luxury, medium and standard-sized cars (wheelbases greater than 114 inches) manufactured after September 1, 1981; all intermediate and compact cars (wheelbases greater than 100 inches) manufactured after September 1, 1982; and all subcompacts after September 1, 1983. Since the standard is, by law, performance oriented rather than design oriented, car manufacturers have the option of choosing the particular system they will install to meet the federal requirements. Because of design problems and production costs, most of the auto manufacturers appear to be opting for a passive belt system.

Objective of This Study

The Volkswagen automatic restraint system consists of a torso belt with dual sensitivity automatic locking retractor, a knee bolster, and the seat and seat belt anchorage on the seat frame (see Figure 1.1). The torso belt is attached at its upper end to a release latch mounted on the door and is designed so that as the door is opened the belt swings out of the way to allow seating. The knee bolster is designed to absorb energy transmitted through the knees and is intended to replace the conventional lap belt. An electric switch installed in the belt buckle prevents the engine from starting if the driver is unbuckled.

To date most of the testing of the VW Rabbit automatic restraint system has been carried out in the laboratory under simulated crash conditions, although some limited field evaluations have been conducted by NHTSA and Volkswagen of America. The primary objective of this research is to assess the injury

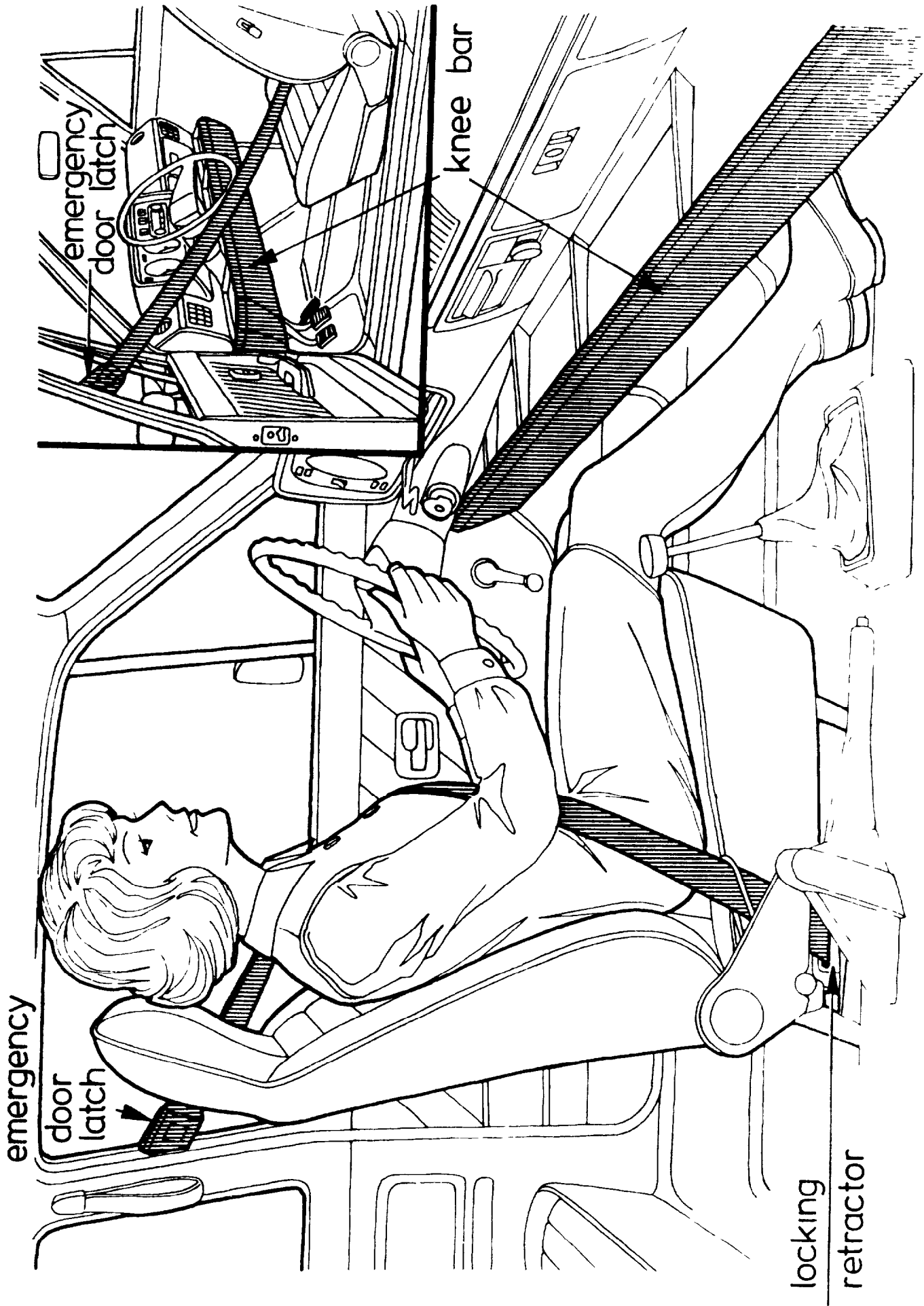


Figure 1.1. The Volkswagen Rabbit automatic restraint system.
Source: Rosenau and Welkey (1980).

reducing effectiveness of the VW Rabbit automatic shoulder belt/knee bolster system using police reported accident data from six states - New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Colorado, Alabama and South Carolina. Specifically, accident data from these states are analyzed to compare the injury experiences of front seat, outboard occupants of VW Rabbits equipped with automatic restraint systems with those equipped with manual (active) lap and shoulder belt systems. The analyses are aimed at answering the following questions:

- (i) Do occupants of VW Rabbits with automatic restraint systems experience significantly lower injury rates than the occupants of VW Rabbits with manual restraint systems under similar crash conditions?
- (ii) Do occupants of VW Rabbits with automatic restraint systems have significantly higher restraint usage rates than occupants of VW Rabbits with manual restraint systems?
- (iii) When both types of restraint systems are in effect, do the automatic restraint systems perform better or worse or about the same as the manual restraint systems?
- (iv) If the answers to questions (i) and (ii) are both in the affirmative, then how much of the reduction in the injury rate for occupants of VW Rabbits with automatic restraint systems is attributable to the corresponding increase in their restraint usage rate?
- (v) To what extent is state accident data adequate for addressing questions such as these?

Review of the Literature

Restraint Usage Studies

As noted earlier, the primary reason for amending FMVSS 208 to require the installation of automatic (or passive) restraints in new automobiles is the low use level associated with the manual systems. An automatic restraint system by definition requires no action on the part of the vehicle operator to be effective. However, especially in the case of automatic belts, there does exist the possibility for defeating the system, or altering it so that the vehicle can be operated without the safety belt in use. Real world usage rates must therefore be considered in an evaluation of the potential effectiveness of an automatic belt system.

The most current information in this area comes from a recent survey of 1978 VW Rabbit owners and 1978-79 Chevette owners conducted by the Opinion

Research Corporation (Phillips and Goodman, 1980). Owners were contacted by telephone and asked to respond to a series of questions about belt usage, comfort, convenience and reliability, and about approaches used by the salesman at the time of purchase. A total of 2,431 interviews were completed, distributed as follows:

| | |
|---|------------|
| VW Rabbit with automatic restraint system | 1,010 |
| VW Rabbit with manual restraint system | 203 |
| GM Chevette with automatic restraint system | 1,002 |
| GM Chevette with manual restraint system | <u>216</u> |
| Total | 2,431 |

Eighty-nine percent of the owners of the VW Rabbits with automatic restraint systems reported that they wore their belt "always" or "almost always," compared with 46 percent of the owners of manual belt equipped Rabbits. For the Chevettes the corresponding figures were 72 percent for the automatic Chevettes and 34 percent for the manual Chevettes. These reported usage rates are noted to be at least 10 percent higher than actual observed usage rates based on data from Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) belt usage surveys conducted in 19 cities across the U.S. (see Table 1.1).

Table 1.1

Reported and Observed Belt Usage
by Owners of VW Rabbits and GM Chevettes

| | Reported Usage | Observed Usage |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Automatic Rabbit Owners | 89% | 81% |
| Manual Rabbit Owners | 46% | 36% |
| Automatic Chevette Owners | 72% | no data |
| Manual Chevette Owners | 34% | 11% |

Source: Phillips and Goodman (1980)

Generally owners of the Chevettes viewed their automatic restraint systems less favorably and were more critical on points related to the comfort and convenience of the system. However, they were apparently no more likely to have defeated their system. The starter interlock was reported still operative in 89

percent of the Chevettes after an average ownership of nine months, and 88 percent of the VW Rabbits after an average ownership of 12 months.

Given a longer period of ownership, one could expect this defeat rate to increase due to, among other things, increased transferal of ownership. NHTSA estimates that the disconnect rate of VW Rabbits will range from 20-40 percent (NHTSA, 1980). A 30 percent defeat rate was observed for 1975-78 automatic belt-equipped Rabbits (NHTSA, 1978).

Compared with observed belt usage in the general population of automobile drivers, usage in even the manual belt-equipped VW Rabbits is high. As referred to earlier, NHTSA's most recent figures for belt usage in the general population are 11 percent for drivers (the same as observed for drivers of manual Chevettes in the 19 city ORC survey) and seven percent for other occupants of the vehicle. Usage is consistently higher in the smaller foreign make cars. In a 1977-78 ORC survey where the overall observed usage was 16 percent, U.S. car usage was 14 percent and foreign car usage was 23 percent. Also, it is known that usage in the general population, the "population at risk," is higher than in the population of accident-involved drivers. For example, only eight percent of the drivers in accidents sampled for the National Crash Severity Study were wearing their belts (NHTSA, 1979).

On the basis of these data it is clear that automatic belt systems go a long way toward resolving the problem of nonuse of available safety restraints. The question which remains to be answered is how effective these passive belt systems are when compared to other restraint systems in general and manual lap and shoulder belt systems in particular. Research in this area is briefly reviewed in the following section.

Restraint Effectiveness Studies

Four major approaches have been taken to estimating the effectiveness of passive restraint systems. These are summarized and critiqued in a report to the General Accounting Office by Griffin (1979). Briefly, these four approaches are:

- (i) Laboratory assessments (artificial studies)
- (ii) Subjective assessments (engineering judgments)
- (iii) Systems models (flow charts, statistical equations)
- (iv) Real-world accident experience (naturalistic studies)

Griffin argues that while all four types of evaluation can be useful tools to the highway safety researcher, only the last constitutes a reliable and valid means of determining a countermeasure's worth.

As noted earlier most of the evaluations that have been carried out on the VW Rabbit automatic belt/knee bolster system have been in a laboratory setting. The system was extensively tested at the University of Heidelberg and in VW's own labs before being marketed to the public. Seiffert, Oehm and Paitula (1974) concluded on the basis of their simulated lab tests of frontal, lateral and rollover crash types that the VW automatic restraint "performs as well or better than the three-point belt." And in evaluating the results of a limited number of frontal crash tests using cadavers, Schimkat, Weissner and Schmidt (1974) arrived at a similar conclusion, stating that the two types of restraint systems offer equal occupant protection.

Further lab testing of the VW Rabbit automatic belt system was carried out as part of NHTSA's compliance testing for FMVSS 208. In the initial round of testing involving eight frontal impacts, there were some problems with the restraint on the driver side of the vehicle. Later testing by NHTSA in 1976-77 showed the VW automatic belt/knee bolster system to be in full compliance with federal requirements for frontal crash protection.

The "subjective assessment" approach was used by Huelke, Sherman, Murphy, Kaplan and Flora (1979) to evaluate the potential effectiveness of a variety of restraint systems. NASS-type data collected at the scene of 80 fatal crashes occurring in Washtenaw County, Michigan, during 1973-77 were examined by the authors. Three of the authors, Sherman, Murphy and Kaplan, independently estimated the injury-reducing effect that lap belts, lap and shoulder belts, air bags with and without lap belts, and passive belts would have had had they been used by the accident victim. The following average effectiveness figures were given for reducing the likelihood of death and the level of injury from serious, or fatal (AIS ≥ 3) to moderate, minor or uninjured (AIS ≤ 2):

| <u>Restraint System</u> | <u>% Fewer Fatalities</u> | <u>% Fewer Serious Injuries</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lap belt | 12% | 39% |
| Lap and shoulder belt | 32% | 64% |
| Air bag only | 25% | 58% |
| Air bag with lap belt | 34% | 68% |
| Automatic belt | 28% | 58% |

Compared with NHTSA's effectiveness estimates, which have generally been based on mass accident data analysis, the estimates cited here for fatality reduction are considerably lower, while those for serious injury reduction are higher. For example, analysis of the RSEP (Restraint Systems Evaluation Program) data indicated that in accidents in which at least one vehicle had to be towed from the scene, lap/shoulder belts were 57 percent effective in reducing serious (AIS ≥ 2) injuries (Reinfurt, Silva and Seila, 1976). One explanation offered by Huelke et al. is the relatively rural, high speed setting for most of the accidents they examined, resulting in a sample of accidents that was less "survivable" than what would be expected for mass accident data. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that the automatic belt system was judged to perform slightly better than air bags alone but not quite as well as the conventional lap and shoulder belt systems. This might be expected since air bags are designed to offer protection in frontal collisions only.

Most of the studies of automatic belt effectiveness that have been conducted using real world accident data have been limited to fatal accident cases reported through the national Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS). The FARS data has been actively monitored by NHTSA for the purpose of evaluating the field safety performance of VW Rabbits since the fall of 1977.

In an analysis of FARS data collected through September 1978, NHTSA reports that the fatality rate per 1000 car years is 0.137 for automatic (or passive) belt-equipped VW Rabbits and 0.281 for manual (or active) belt-equipped Rabbits of the same model years. From this data, the fatality rate for automatic belt Rabbits is seen to be about half the rate for the manual belt Rabbits. Although increased usage is seen as the major factor affecting this reduction in fatalities, the effect of usage per se was not differentiated in the analysis.

In addition to NHTSA's analysis of the FARS data, Volkswagen has initiated some field evaluations of its own. For the past several years Volkswagen has received the cooperation of its U.S. dealers in notifying it of all crashes of automatic belt-equipped VW Rabbits involving at least \$2,500 damage. These are then extensively investigated by Volkswagen personnel. Rosenau and Welkey (1980) report on the 147 crashes investigated to date, 61 percent of these being frontal collisions ($\pm 45^\circ$), 20 percent lateral collisions, 11 percent rear end collisions and 8 percent rollovers. There were no reported fatalities and the highest AIS recorded in the sample was AIS 4. The reported belt usage rate was quite high at 95 percent. From their examination of this real-world data the authors conclude that the VW Rabbit automatic belt/knee bolster restraint system performs

according to original expectations, and that there is no need for mandating "any specific type of automatic occupant protection, such as air cushions."

In their 1980 study, Rosenau and Welkey also review laboratory testing of the VW automatic and manual restraint systems. In full frontal crash tests, higher HIC (Head Injury Criteria) values, measuring head forces upon impact, were recorded for the manually restrained occupants, while the passively restrained occupants experienced greater femur forces. Chest accelerations recorded under the two conditions were comparable. For the 30° frontal barrier crash tests, HIC values for the conventionally and passively restrained occupants were similar, but the passively restrained occupants experienced slightly higher chest accelerations and femur forces. They conclude once again that on the basis of these crash tests, the two systems, when used, are virtually equivalent in terms of occupant protection.

There are obvious limitations in both the NHTSA and Volkswagen field evaluations of the VW Rabbit automatic restraint system. The FARS data used in the NHTSA analysis is restricted to fatal accidents, and the number of crashes investigated by Volkswagen is still relatively small and there is no comparison evaluation of crashes involving manually restrained occupants. The current research attempts to overcome these limitations by utilizing mass accident data from six states for the five-year period 1975-1979. As noted earlier, the six states are New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Colorado, Alabama and South Carolina. These six states were selected because reporting officers in these states record the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of vehicles involved in crashes and this information is in turn stored on the computerized accident data files. VIN information is needed to identify vehicle make and model and, in the case of VW Rabbits, the type of available restraint system (automatic or manual).

Chapter 2 gives a detailed description of the data bases utilized in the current analysis. Study methodology is outlined in Chapter 3 and the results presented in Chapter 4. A final chapter discusses the significance of the study findings and the appropriateness of using police-reported mass accident data to carry out such evaluations.

CHAPTER 2. THE DATA

Introduction

The data used in this study consists of police-reported accident data from New York State, North Carolina, Maryland, Colorado, Alabama, and South Carolina for the calendar years 1975-1979. For New York State, the data consists primarily of injury accidents since the police do not report on Property Damage Only (PDO) accidents. Although there is information on PDO crashes reported by the motorist, the data was not utilized since many of the variables of interest (e.g., restraint usage, seating position) were either not required on the motorist report form or a substantial proportion were left blank.

For the remaining states, the thresholds for police reporting are quite similar (i.e., injury and/or property damage of several hundred dollars) and thus the police reports represent the full range of accident severity. (See Appendix A for copies of the accident report forms for each of the states.)

A primary objective of this study is to determine whether occupants of VW Rabbits with automatic restraint systems experience significantly lower serious (A or K) injury rates than do the occupants of VW Rabbits with manual restraint systems under similar crash conditions. Secondary objectives are to determine whether there are significant differences in restraint system usage rates (automatic vs. manual) and whether automatic restraint systems perform better or worse or about the same as the manual restraint systems. Obviously to address these questions, it is necessary to separate out the Rabbit accidents in each of the state files and then to ascertain which Rabbits had automatic restraints and which ones had manual systems.

Thus, with the help of the documentation provided by each of the states along with some consultation, each of the accident files was processed and an extract made of those accidents involving VW Rabbits. It should be noted that, although the automatic belts were available on the more "luxurious" Rabbits, the fact that both systems were available in the same make/model vehicle makes for a nearly ideal study design (i.e., vehicle and driver differences between the experimental group and the control group should be at a minimum).

To identify Rabbit-involved accidents, it was necessary to have accident files with computerized Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) information and hence the selection of New York State, North Carolina, Maryland, Colorado,

Alabama, and South Carolina. Using the R. L. Polk VINA package (a VIN decoding program), the previously mentioned extract was created (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.1
VW Rabbit accidents by state [percent of total]

| State | Number of Rabbit Accidents [%] |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| New York | 3898 [32.5] |
| North Carolina | 1841 [15.4] |
| Maryland | 2474 [20.7] |
| Colorado | 2061 [17.2] |
| Alabama | 1175 [9.8] |
| South Carolina | 527 [4.4] |
| Total | 11976 |

The next step involved identifying the restraint type for each of the Rabbits. This information is contained in the production number which is a series of digits at the end of the VIN sequence. Thus, to obtain the restraint type, the Rabbit VIN's were passed against a VW-supplied file which provided a listing of restraint type by production number. As anticipated cases were deleted due to invalid production numbers either provided by the investigating officer or entered incorrectly from the report form onto the computer file. The resulting study file is shown in Table 2.2. As can be seen, the automatic restraint system constitutes between 20 and 26 percent of the cases in each state and is reasonably constant from state to state as should be expected.

Characteristics of the Study File

Accident-Oriented Comparisons. For each state, an accident (or vehicle = Rabbit) oriented file was created in order to examine differences between restraint types with respect to model year, accident year, number of vehicles involved (single vs. multi), impact area (of Rabbit), extent of damage, drivability, and weight of the other vehicle (in multivehicle crashes). To the extent that the data is available and comparable across states, the resulting distributions are shown in Tables 2.3 - 2.6.

Table 2.2
Frequency (percentage) of Rabbit restraint system type by state

| | Belt Type (%) | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Manual | Automatic | Total |
| New York | 2821 (79.6) | 722 (20.4) | 3543 [34.3] |
| North Carolina | 1180 (77.3) | 347 (22.7) | 1527 [14.8] |
| Maryland | 1603 (75.3) | 525 (24.7) | 2128 [20.6] |
| Colorado | 1434 (74.5) | 491 (25.5) | 1925 [18.6] |
| Alabama | 768 (79.1) | 203 (20.9) | 971 [9.4] |
| South Carolina | 190 (78.5) | 52 (21.5) | 242 [2.3] |
| Total | 7996 (77.4) | 2340 (22.6) | 10,336 |

The relatively low percentage of 1979 model Rabbits in the accident file (see Table 2.3) should be expected since, for the most part, they could only be involved in accidents during calendar year 1979 which represents at most only one-fifth of the accident period -- less than this for states with less than a full year of data for 1979. It is of interest that 1979 model automatic Rabbits are consistently underrepresented as compared to manual Rabbits especially when compared to the reasonably similar distribution for each of the other model year vehicles. Note should be made, however, of the relatively small within-state accident sample sizes for the 1979 model year Rabbit.

The accident year distribution (see Table 2.4) appears reasonable (i.e., increasing numbers of Rabbits of both types as more and more model years come into existence). The only exception is calendar year 1979 which can be explained by less than a full year of accident data for some of the states. South Carolina deviates the most from the overall rates. The extent to which this is a function of small sample size vs. the quality of the VIN data (i.e.,

Table 2.3
Rabbit model year distribution by Rabbit belt type by state.

| State | Belt Type | Model Year | | | | | Total |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | |
| NY | Manual (%) | 806 (28.6) | 860 (30.5) | 608 (21.6) | 431 (15.3) | 116 (4.1) | 2821 [79.6] |
| | Automatic (%) | 206 (28.5) | 205 (28.4) | 167 (23.1) | 139 (19.3) | 5 (0.7) | 722 [20.4] |
| NC | Manual (%) | 363 (30.8) | 242 (20.5) | 324 (27.5) | 191 (16.2) | 60 (5.1) | 1180 [77.3] |
| | Automatic (%) | 97 (28.0) | 76 (21.9) | 83 (23.9) | 88 (25.4) | 3 (0.9) | 347 [22.7] |
| MD | Manual (%) | 396 (24.7) | 349 (21.8) | 551 (34.4) | 247 (15.4) | 60 (3.7) | 1603 [75.3] |
| | Automatic (%) | 133 (25.3) | 155 (29.5) | 118 (22.5) | 114 (21.7) | 5 (1.0) | 525 [24.7] |
| CO | Manual (%) | 273 (19.0) | 389 (27.1) | 448 (31.2) | 278 (19.4) | 46 (3.2) | 1434 [74.5] |
| | Automatic (%) | 90 (18.3) | 145 (29.5) | 139 (28.3) | 113 (23.0) | 4 (0.8) | 491 [25.5] |
| AL | Manual (%) | 268 (36.6) | 116 (15.9) | 210 (28.7) | 108 (14.8) | 30 (4.1) | 732 [78.8] |
| | Automatic (%) | 66 (33.5) | 41 (20.8) | 34 (17.3) | 55 (27.9) | 1 (0.5) | 197 [21.2] |
| SC | Manual (%) | 60 (31.6) | 28 (14.7) | 53 (27.9) | 40 (21.1) | 9 (4.7) | 190 [78.5] |
| | Automatic (%) | 9 (17.3) | 14 (26.9) | 12 (23.1) | 16 (30.8) | 1 (1.9) | 52 [21.5] |
| Total (%) | | 2767 (26.9) | 2620 (25.5) | 2747 (26.7) | 1820 (17.7) | 340 (3.3) | 10294 |

Table 2.4
Accident year distribution by Rabbit belt type by state.

| State | Belt Type | Accident Year | | | | | Total | |
|---------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| | | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | N | [%] |
| NY | Manual % | 4.9 | 12.5 | 21.4 | 29.1 | 32.1 | 2821 | [79.6] |
| | Automatic % | 4.2 | 13.0 | 22.3 | 30.3 | 30.2 | 722 | [20.4] |
| NC | Manual % | 3.2 | 11.0 | 20.5 | 31.2 | 34.1 | 1180 | [77.3] |
| | Automatic % | 4.0 | 12.5 | 17.3 | 31.8 | 34.4 | 347 | [22.7] |
| MD | Manual % | 2.5 | 5.4 | 29.1 | 40.6 | 22.4 | 1596 | [75.3] |
| | Automatic % | 4.4 | 9.9 | 23.3 | 39.6 | 22.8 | 523 | [24.7] |
| CO | Manual % | 1.3 | 10.4 | 21.3 | 30.8 | 36.3 | 1434 | [74.5] |
| | Automatic % | 1.4 | 7.5 | 22.2 | 31.4 | 37.5 | 491 | [25.5] |
| AL | Manual % | 3.0 | 11.6 | 23.6 | 31.8 | 29.9 | 732 | [78.8] |
| | Automatic % | 2.5 | 9.1 | 25.4 | 28.9 | 34.0 | 197 | [21.2] |
| SC | Manual % | 5.3 | 11.1 | 16.3 | 30.5 | 36.8 | 190 | [78.5] |
| | Automatic % | 7.7 | 1.9 | 5.8 | 36.5 | 48.1 | 52 | [21.5] |
| Total % | | 349 3.4 | 1068 10.4 | 2326 22.6 | 3336 32.4 | 3206 31.2 | 10285 | |

54 percent of the Rabbit VIN's failed to provide information on the type of belt system) is not able to be determined. Nonetheless, it does suggest caution in utilizing and interpreting South Carolina Rabbit data. As will subsequently be seen, similar caveats will apply to the Alabama accident data.

The distribution of number of vehicles involved (see Table 2.5) by belt type is reasonably consistent across states averaging approximately 12 percent in single vehicle crashes. This is likewise similar to data from North Carolina for 1975-1979 involving all passenger cars.

Crash-involved Rabbits are drivable in roughly two-thirds of the cases (see Table 2.6). Although the between state variation is somewhat greater for this variable perhaps due to slightly differing definitions of "drivable", the within state distributions by belt type are very similar with, again, the exception of South Carolina.

With respect to some of the other vehicle-oriented variables such as impact area and extent of damage, to the extent that the vehicles were defined the same across states comparisons of automatic vs. manual Rabbits revealed similar impact areas (e.g., approximately 35 percent in the front and 25 percent on each side -- slightly higher on the left side) and damage extent (10 percent or so with "severe" damage).

In brief, with respect to accident and/or vehicle variables, the data from the six states is reasonably consistent with expectation and similar by belt type.

Occupant (Driver) - Oriented Comparisons. Clearly to address the objectives of this study, it was necessary to create an occupant-oriented file. From this file information could be derived on, for example, injury by belt type by seating position. It should be noted, however, that for Alabama and South Carolina the file contains driver information only since there is no information available for uninjured occupants. Thus, non-driver occupants from Alabama and South Carolina are excluded from the "occupant" (i.e., driver + right front seat passenger (when present)) tables.

Of special interest are belt type (manual vs. automatic) distributions by restraint usage, injury severity, and age, sex and seating position of occupant. From the state data files for occupants in Rabbits where belt type is known, belt usage information is unavailable for 94 percent of the Alabama data (93 percent manual vs. 96 percent automatic) and 93 percent of the South Carolina cases (92 percent manual vs. 93 percent automatic). As a result, there is very little belt usage information for these two states. However, for the remaining

Table 2.5
Distribution of number of vehicles involved by Rabbit
belt type by state.

| State | Belt Type | Number of Vehicles Involved | | Total | |
|------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| | | Single | Multi | N | [%] |
| NY | Manual % | 15.9 | 84.1 | 2821 | [79.6] |
| | Automatic % | 15.2 | 84.8 | 722 | [20.4] |
| NC | Manual % | 13.0 | 87.0 | 1180 | [77.3] |
| | Automatic % | 13.0 | 87.0 | 347 | [22.7] |
| MD | Manual % | 8.8 | 91.2 | 1603 | [75.3] |
| | Automatic % | 9.0 | 91.0 | 525 | [24.7] |
| CO | Manual % | 10.3 | 89.7 | 1434 | [74.5] |
| | Automatic % | 8.6 | 91.6 | 491 | [25.5] |
| AL | Manual % | 9.7 | 90.3 | 732 | [78.8] |
| | Automatic % | 11.7 | 88.3 | 197 | [21.2] |
| SC | Manual % | 15.3 | 84.7 | 190 | [78.5] |
| | Automatic % | 13.5 | 86.5 | 52 | [21.5] |
| Total % | | 1263 12.3 | 9031 87.7 | 10294 | |

Table 2.6
Vehicle (Rabbit) drivability by belt type by state.

| State | Belt Type | Drivability | | Total | |
|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------|--------|
| | | Yes | No | N | [%] |
| NY | Manual % | 72.0 | 28.0 | 2821 | [79.6] |
| | Automatic % | 71.6 | 28.4 | 722 | [20.4] |
| NC | Manual % | 55.9 | 44.1 | 1066 | [77.7] |
| | Automatic % | 59.2 | 40.8 | 306 | [22.3] |
| MD | Manual % | 71.2 | 28.8 | 1578 | [75.1] |
| | Automatic % | 72.5 | 27.5 | 523 | [24.9] |
| CO | Manual % | 66.8 | 33.2 | 1309 | [74.3] |
| | Automatic % | 67.7 | 32.3 | 452 | [25.7] |
| AL | Manual % | 67.4 | 32.6 | 720 | [78.6] |
| | Automatic % | 67.3 | 32.7 | 196 | [21.4] |
| SC | Manual % | 51.6 | 48.4 | 190 | [78.5] |
| | Automatic % | 65.4 | 34.6 | 52 | [21.5] |
| Total % | | 67.56 68.0 | 31.79 32.0 | 9935 | |

states, the rates of unknown belt usage range from under 10 percent for North Carolina to around 15 percent for New York State. It will be seen in Chapter 4 that there are no serious biases created by the missing belt usage information which would undermine any subsequent analyses.

From Table 2.7 it would appear that usage of the automatic belt in crashes is at least double that of the manual belt. Although the percentages differ considerably from state-to-state, the ratio of the rates is reasonably constant (1.97 for New York State; 2.61 for North Carolina; 1.78 for Maryland; and 1.84 for Colorado). Since the VW Rabbit is a foreign, subcompact, one would expect higher-than-average usage rates for the conventional (or manual) belts. On the other hand, based on population-at-risk studies and the fact that there is an ignition interlock accompanying the automatic belts, generally higher usage rates (exceeding 70 percent) would be anticipated. Misclassification errors by the investigating officer (generally indicating that the belt was not worn when indeed it had been for the automatic Rabbits) would account for these lower than expected usage rates for automatic belts. However, errors in the same direction would be expected for the manual belts which does not appear to be the case.

In addition, it would be anticipated that the belt usage rate for type would be fairly similar from state to state. Whether the differences are systematic reporting differences between states is not known. There is no independent source against which to compare the investigator's designation. Until such is available, it is probably safe to assume only that automatic belts were used at least twice as often as conventional belts in the set of accidents under study. The data from New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado suggests a range in usage rates for manual belts of 25-30 percent and one of 55-60 percent for automatic belts.

Table 2.8 shows serious (A+K) injury rates by belt type and by state. Again, the ratio of serious injury rates (manual vs. automatic) are reasonably stable across states (1.28 for New York; 1.38 for North Carolina; 1.71 for Maryland; and 1.18 for Colorado) while the serious injury rates within belt type vary considerably across states (e.g., for manual belts from 2.9 percent for Maryland to 8.5 percent for Colorado). This variation could be a function of: (1) differences in crash severity among states; (2) differences in reporting thresholds; (3) errors in reporting level of injury level; and (4) differences in the definition of serious (A+K) injury.

Table 2.7
Occupant belt use by Rabbit belt type by state

| State | Belt Type | Belt Use | | Total | |
|---------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| | | Yes | No | N | [%] |
| NY | Manual % | 29.0 | 71.0 | 3401 | [79.8] |
| | Automatic % | 57.2 | 42.8 | 860 | [20.2] |
| NC | Manual % | 16.3 | 83.7 | 1426 | [77.1] |
| | Automatic % | 42.6 | 57.4 | 425 | [22.9] |
| MD | Manual % | 41.6 | 58.4 | 1696 | [74.6] |
| | Automatic % | 73.9 | 26.1 | 578 | [25.4] |
| CO | Manual % | 25.4 | 74.6 | 1394 | [75.1] |
| | Automatic % | 46.8 | 53.2 | 462 | [24.9] |
| AL* | Manual % | 2.1 | 97.9 | 48 | [85.7] |
| | Automatic % | 37.5 | 62.5 | 8 | [14.3] |
| SC* | Manual % | 7.1 | 92.9 | 14 | [82.4] |
| | Automatic % | 33.3 | 66.4 | 3 | [17.6] |
| Total % | | 3600 34.9 | 6715 65.1 | 10315 | |

*Based on drivers only

Table 2.8
Occupant (A+K)-injury distribution by Rabbit belt
type by state.

| State | Belt Type | Injury Level | | Total | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------|--------|
| | | A+K | B+C+0 | N | [%] |
| NY | Manual % | 6.0 | 94.0 | 4015 | [79.6] |
| | Automatic % | 4.7 | 95.3 | 1031 | [20.4] |
| NC | Manual % | 4.7 | 95.3 | 1580 | [77.2] |
| | Automatic % | 3.4 | 96.6 | 467 | [22.8] |
| MD | Manual % | 2.9 | 97.1 | 1949 | [75.3] |
| | Automatic % | 1.7 | 98.3 | 640 | [24.7] |
| CO | Manual % | 8.5 | 91.5 | 1449 | [75.3] |
| | Automatic % | 7.2 | 92.8 | 475 | [24.7] |
| AL* | Manual % | 7.2 | 92.8 | 732 | [78.8] |
| | Automatic % | 2.0 | 98.0 | 197 | [21.2] |
| SC* | Manual % | 4.7 | 95.3 | 190 | [78.5] |
| | Automatic % | 1.9 | 98.1 | 52 | [21.5] |
| Total % | | 672 5.3 | 12105 94.7 | 12777 | |

*Based on drivers only.

Figure 2.1

Translation of New York State Injury Coding Scheme to K-A-B-C-O

| Victim's Injury Status | Type of Complaint | Location of Injury | Translation to KABCO |
|---|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| I. Apparent death (1) | Any entry | Any entry | K |
| II. Unconscious (2) Semi-conscious (3) Incoherent (6) | Any entry | Any entry | A |
| III. Shock (7) Normal (8) | Amputation, Concussion, Internal, Severe bleeding, Severe burn, Fracture- dislocation | Any entry | A |
| IV. Shock (7) Normal (8) | Minor bleeding, Minor burn, Complaint of pain | Eye | A |
| V. Shock (7) Normal (8) | Minor bleeding, Minor burn | All but eye | B |
| VI. Shock (7) | Contusions-bruise Abrasion | Any entry | B |
| VII. Shock (7) Normal (8) | Complaint of pain | All but eye | C |
| VIII. Shock (7) Normal (8) | None visible | Any entry | O |
| IX. Not applicable (0) | Vehicle parked | D | (No occupant) |
| X | | W | (No vehicle) |
| XI. Not applicable (0) | For driver, if driver position=1, For right front occupant, if occupant position=3. | | 0 |
| XII. Not applicable (0) | For driver, property damage='Yes'+ total injured in accident='None'. For right front occupant, property damage='Yes' + occupant; total injured in accident='None' + no. of occupants in vehicle>1. | | 0 |
| XIII. Not applicable (0) | For driver, if total # of injured in vehicle=0 & total # of killed in vehicle=0. For right front occupant, if total # of injured=0, & total # killed occupant=0 & total # of occupant >1. | | 0 |
| XIV. All other cases | | | M (Missing) |

With respect to (1), all else being equal the more rural the state the greater the serious injury rate within belt type. Maryland and Colorado (A+K) rates are consistent with this hypothesis. New York State has a considerably higher police reporting threshold (2) than the other states, namely injury-producing accidents. Again, all else being equal, their serious injury rates within belt type would be expected to be somewhat elevated.

Reporting errors (3) are indeterminable from this data. Definitional differences (4) clearly exist. Fatal injuries are reasonably unambiguous. However, there are a variety of definitions for A-injuries. For example, Maryland defines A-injury as "incapacitating", Alabama as "visible signs of injury, as bleeding wound or distorted member, or had to be carried from scene", and North Carolina as "injury obviously serious enough to prevent the person injured from performing his normal activities for at least one day beyond the day of the accident" while New York has no explicit definition of A-injuries.

In order to derive a KABCO scale for New York State data and to capture information on non-injured occupants, the translation scheme detailed in Figure 2.1 was used. New York accident data utilizes a three-dimensional injury code consisting of victim's injury status (e.g., semi-conscious), type of complaint (e.g., minor bleeding), and location of injury (e.g., chest). For injury status I - VIII, the translation scheme developed by New York was utilized; for injury status IX - XIV, the translation scheme was developed for this study and primarily separates out non-injured occupants. Thus, for New York, it would appear that there would be definitional differences as well as differences in reporting thresholds.

Notwithstanding these differences, there is a reasonably similar and consistent reduction in the (A+K)-injury rates from state to state for the automatic Rabbits compared to the conventional Rabbits.

With respect to occupant characteristics for the states where there is adequate data (NY, NC, MD and CO), there are only relatively minor differences both among states and between belt system types. The majority of occupants fall in the 21-35 year old age range (see Table 2.9) with the distributions by belt type (automatic vs. manual) perhaps surprisingly similar across states.

The majority (approximately 55 percent) of the occupants in each state are male with no clear differences between belt types across states (see Table 2.10). Either the occupancy rate is lower in Colorado or right front seat occupants are less likely to be reported on than in the other three states (see Table 2.11). Excepting Colorado, it would appear that there are approximately

Table 2.9
Occupant age by Rabbit belt type by state.

| State | Belt Type | Age | | | | Total | |
|---------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------|--------|
| | | <21 | 21-35 | 36-55 | 56+ | N | [%] |
| NY | Manual % | 19.1 | 48.9 | 24.2 | 7.8 | 3611 | [80.0] |
| | Automatic % | 17.8 | 48.9 | 24.8 | 8.5 | 910 | [20.0] |
| NC | Manual % | 23.4 | 53.2 | 17.7 | 5.7 | 1423 | [77.0] |
| | Automatic % | 28.0 | 43.5 | 20.2 | 8.2 | 425 | [23.0] |
| MD | Manual % | 22.3 | 52.1 | 18.9 | 6.7 | 1756 | [74.7] |
| | Automatic % | 18.3 | 47.1 | 27.6 | 7.0 | 595 | [25.3] |
| CO | Manual % | 17.7 | 59.5 | 18.1 | 4.7 | 1288 | [74.7] |
| | Automatic % | 15.8 | 58.0 | 18.6 | 7.6 | 436 | [25.3] |
| AL* | Manual % | 22.0 | 59.7 | 11.0 | 7.3 | 82 | [86.3] |
| | Automatic % | 38.4 | 30.8 | 30.8 | 0.0 | 13 | [13.7] |
| SC* | Manual % | 27.8 | 33.3 | 33.3 | 5.6 | 18 | [85.7] |
| | Automatic % | 33.3 | 33.3 | 33.3 | 0.0 | 3 | [14.3] |
| Total % | | 2128 20.1 | 5427 51.4 | 2270 21.5 | 735 7.0 | 10560 | |

*Based on drivers only.

Table 2.10
Occupant sex by Rabbit belt type by state

| State | Belt Type | Occupant* Sex | | Total | |
|---------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| | | Male | Female | N | [%] |
| NY | Manual % | 54.9 | 45.1 | 3664 | [80.0] |
| | Automatic % | 57.2 | 42.8 | 918 | [20.0] |
| NC | Manual % | 54.8 | 45.2 | 1416 | [77.0] |
| | Automatic % | 59.6 | 40.4 | 423 | [23.0] |
| MD | Manual % | 57.2 | 42.8 | 1768 | [74.8] |
| | Automatic % | 54.4 | 45.6 | 597 | [25.2] |
| CO | Manual % | 54.1 | 45.9 | 1302 | [74.9] |
| | Automatic % | 52.2 | 47.8 | 437 | [25.3] |
| AL* | Manual % | 58.6 | 41.4 | 732 | [78.8] |
| | Automatic % | 57.9 | 42.1 | 197 | [21.2] |
| SC* | Manual % | 57.9 | 42.1 | 190 | [78.5] |
| | Automatic % | 55.8 | 44.2 | 52 | [21.5] |
| Total % | | 6514 55.7 | 5182 44.3 | 11696 | |

*Based on drivers only.

Table 2.11
Occupant seating position* by Rabbit belt type by state.

| State | Belt Type | Seating Position | | Total | |
|---------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-------|--------|
| | | Driver | Right Front Seat | N | [%] |
| NY | Manual % | 76.9 | 23.1 | 3670 | [80.0] |
| | Automatic % | 78.6 | 21.4 | 918 | [20.0] |
| NC | Manual % | 74.7 | 25.3 | 1580 | [77.2] |
| | Automatic % | 74.3 | 25.7 | 467 | [22.8] |
| MD | Manual % | 81.5 | 18.5 | 1967 | [75.2] |
| | Automatic % | 81.0 | 19.0 | 648 | [24.8] |
| CO | Manual % | 92.3 | 7.7 | 1554 | [74.9] |
| | Automatic % | 94.2 | 5.8 | 521 | [25.1] |
| Total % | | 9123 80.6 | 2202 19.4 | 11325 | |

*Seating position is not available for Alabama and South Carolina.

1.3 occupants per crash (assuming that there always is a driver) regardless of the type of belt system.

Although more will be said with respect to the study data in Chapter 5, this concludes the comparison and discussion of certain key variables both across states and between belt systems within states. Prior to presenting the results of the analyses in Chapter 4, a brief discussion of the methodological components will be given in Chapter 3.

CHAPTER 3. STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this section is to discuss the methodology adopted in the analysis of the state data. The methodology essentially consists of the following three steps: (1) select variables for control, (2) fit linear models to the data to obtain smoothed injury rate estimates, and (3) based on these injury rate estimates, obtain estimates of the components of the injury rate reduction that are attributable to restraint usage rate differences, to system differences, and to sample variation. These steps are explained in greater detail below.

Variable Selection

In order to compare the injury experiences of front seat, outboard occupants of automatic restraint system Volkswagen Rabbits to those in the manual restraint system Volkswagen Rabbits, it is necessary to do this on as similar a basis as possible. That is, they should be compared under similar crash circumstances. This can reasonably be accomplished by controlling for those factors that indicate significant differences between the two types of Rabbits in the data sample. Normally the number of these confounding factors that one can actually control for is limited by the available sample size. Consequently, certain criteria are needed to determine which of these factors will be used as controls. The selection procedure is outlined below; for a more extensive treatment of this procedure, see Chi (1980a).

A. Listing of potential confounding factors

A list of potential confounding factors is determined by the relevancy of these factors to the problem at hand, and by the availability of information on these variables. From this list, a number of factors are then selected by the following selection or screening procedure.

B. Calculation of relevant statistics

At each stage of the selection procedure, the following statistics are calculated for each candidate variable V , or the joint distribution of V with variables already selected from preceding stages:

1. $T_1 = \chi^2(V \times \text{RABBIT TYPE})$: The Pearson Chi-square statistic for measuring the association between V and RABBIT TYPE, the associated degrees of freedom, and the corresponding p-value.
2. $T_2 = \chi^2(V \times \text{INJURY})$: The Pearson Chi-square statistic for measuring the association between V and INJURY, the associated degrees of freedom, and the corresponding p-value.

C. The screening criterion

Both statistics T_1 and T_2 must be significant in order for a variable to be further considered since, if the association between V and RABBIT TYPE as measured by T_1 is not significant, then its exclusion will not affect the effectiveness estimate regardless of the significance of the association between V and INJURY (i.e., T_2). On the other hand, if the association between V and INJURY is not significant, then the inclusion of V as a control will not contribute significantly to the reduction of variation in injury.

D. The selection process

Among the variables that meet the above screening criterion, select the one with the largest T_1 /d.f. and T_2 /d.f. statistics. If other variables have T_1 /d.f. and T_2 /d.f. of about the same magnitude, then the one that is the least ambiguously defined is preferred. The process is then repeated using the joint classification of the first variable selected and each of the remaining candidate variables vs. RABBIT TYPE and INJURY, respectively. If sample size or T_1 /d.f. and T_2 /d.f. suggests that repetition of the preceding steps is not warranted, then additional variables with significant T_1 /d.f. and T_2 /d.f. may be selected at this stage.

Thus, a certain amount of subjectivity is involved in the selection process. The procedure repeats itself after each selection has been made and will be terminated if one of the following situations occurs.

- (i) No more relevant factors are available for consideration;
- (ii) The statistics T_1 /d.f. and/or T_2 /d.f. are not significant for any of the remaining variables; or
- (iii) Sample size limits the usefulness of further screening.

Categorical Data Modeling

Introduction

In many analyses, the independent and dependent variables are categorical in nature. Grizzle, Starmer, and Koch (1969) proposed a general method (GSK) for analyzing such data by weighted least squares procedures. This method requires first the definition of a response function which is generally a function of proportions (probabilities) in a contingency table generated by the dependent variable(s) and a set of independent variables determined by the aforementioned selection scheme. The choice of a response function normally depends on substantive interests.

The response function once defined is treated as a dependent variable, and linear regression models are fitted by the method of weighted least squares, which properly accounts for the inherent variability in these quantities.

If the final model proves adequate, one obtains the predicted values of the dependent variable and estimates of its variance-covariance matrix. Based on these estimates, estimates for the values of other functions of the dependent variable(s) and their associated variance-covariance matrix are derived.

The GSK Method

Assuming that the dependent variable (which may be multivariate) and a set of independent variables (e.g., factors selected as controls) have been identified for a given problem, a basic contingency table, as shown in Table 3.1, is generated where the subpopulations are determined by the factor

Table 3.1
Theoretical ($s \times r$) contingency table

| Subpopulation | Response Category | | | | Row Total |
|---------------|-------------------|----------|-----|----------|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 | ... | r | |
| 1 | n_{11} | n_{12} | ... | n_{1r} | n_1 |
| 2 | n_{21} | n_{22} | ... | n_{2r} | n_2 |
| . | . | . | . | . | . |
| . | . | . | . | . | . |
| . | . | . | . | . | . |
| s | n_{s1} | n_{s2} | ... | n_{sr} | n_s |

level combinations of the independent variables, and the response categories are the levels of the dependent variable. For example, in Table 4.20 the subpopulations are determined by (NBVEH \times RABBIT TYPE), and the response categories are determined by (Restraint Usage \times INJAK).

Based on the assumption that the subpopulations are independent and can be characterized by multinomial distributions with probabilities p_{ij} representing the probability of observing response j in subpopulation i , then p_{ij} can be estimated by

$$\hat{p}_{ij} = \frac{n_{ij}}{n_i} \quad , \quad j=1,2,\dots,r-1 \quad , \quad i=1,2,\dots,s$$

with $\hat{p}_{1r} = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{r-1} \hat{p}_{1j}$. The corresponding variance-covariance matrix \underline{V}

can be estimated by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[\hat{p}_{ij}] &= \frac{\hat{p}_{ij}(1-\hat{p}_{ij})}{n_{ij}} & j=1,2,\dots,r-1 \\ \text{Cov}[\hat{p}_{ij}\hat{p}_{ik}] &= -\frac{\hat{p}_{ij}\hat{p}_{ik}}{n_i} & j \neq k \end{aligned}$$

Because the samples from different subpopulations are assumed to be independent, the covariation across rows should be zero, i.e.

$$\text{Cov}[\hat{p}_{ij}\hat{p}_{kj}] = 0 \quad i \neq k$$

The relationship between variation among the proportions can be investigated by fitting linear regression models to the vector $\underline{P}_{s \times (r-1)}$. This aspect of the methodology can be characterized by writing

$$\underline{P}_{s \times (r-1)} = \underline{X}_{s \times t} \underline{\beta}_{t \times (r-1)}$$

where $\underline{X}_{s \times t}$ is a design matrix of full rank t , and $\underline{\beta}$ is the $t \times (r-1)$ matrix of parameters (or effects) to be estimated. The estimated $\underline{\beta}$ are determined by

$$\hat{\underline{\beta}}_{t \times (r-1)} = (\underline{X}'\underline{V}^{-1}\underline{X})^{-1} \underline{X}'\underline{V}^{-1}\underline{P}$$

where \underline{X}' is the matrix transpose of \underline{X} and $\hat{\underline{\beta}}_{t \times (r-1)}$ minimizes the quadratic function

$$x_W^2 = [\underline{P} - \underline{X}\hat{\underline{\beta}}]' \underline{V}^{-1} [\underline{P} - \underline{X}\hat{\underline{\beta}}]$$

The variance-covariance matrix of $\hat{\underline{\beta}}$ is consistently estimated by

$$\underline{V}_{\hat{\underline{\beta}}} = (\underline{X}'\underline{V}^{-1}\underline{X})^{-1}.$$

Justification for a linear regression model is provided by the residual sum of squares x_W^2 . If the model fits well, x_W^2 is distributed approximately as χ^2 with $[s(r-1)-t(r-1)] = (s-t)(r-1)$ degrees of freedom.

When an appropriate model has been determined, statistical tests of significance involving $\hat{\beta}$ may be performed by analogous standard multiple regression procedures. Linear hypotheses are formulated as

$$H_0 = \underset{u \times t}{C} \underset{t \times (r-1)}{\hat{\beta}} = \underset{u \times (r-1)}{0}$$

where $\underset{u \times t}{C}$ is a known contrast matrix, and tested using the statistic

$$x_{WC}^2 = \hat{\beta}' \underset{u \times t}{C}' [\underset{u \times t}{C} (\underset{r \times s}{X}' \underset{s \times s}{V}^{-1} \underset{r \times s}{X})^{-1} \underset{u \times t}{C}]^{-1} \underset{u \times t}{C} \hat{\beta}$$

which is approximately distributed as χ^2 with $u(r-1)$ degrees of freedom.

Successive uses of the goodness of fit test and the significance tests specified by $\underset{u \times t}{C}$ represent ways of partitioning the model components into specific sources of variation. In this context, the $\underset{u \times t}{C}$ matrix reflects the amount the residual sum of squares, x_W^2 , would increase if one reduced the model by substituting in the conditions described by $H_0: \underset{u \times t}{C} \hat{\beta} = 0$. This partitioning of total variance into specific sources represents a statistically valid analysis of variance for proportions.

Finally, predicted values corresponding to any specific model can be calculated from

$$\underset{r \times 1}{\hat{P}} = \underset{r \times 1}{X} \underset{t \times 1}{\hat{\beta}} = \underset{r \times 1}{X} (\underset{r \times s}{X}' \underset{s \times s}{V}^{-1} \underset{r \times s}{X})^{-1} \underset{r \times s}{X}' \underset{s \times 1}{P}$$

and corresponding variance estimates can be obtained from the diagonal elements of

$$\hat{V}(\hat{P}) = \underset{r \times r}{X} (\underset{r \times s}{X}' \underset{s \times s}{V}^{-1} \underset{r \times s}{X})^{-1} \underset{r \times s}{X}'$$

Predicted values for other functions of $\underset{r \times 1}{P}$ and their associated variances can also be obtained using appropriate functions of $\underset{r \times 1}{P}$ and $\underset{s \times s}{V}$.

This type of linear model analysis can be undertaken by using a computer program (GENCAT) written and used extensively in the Biostatistics Department of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. The program (GENCAT) was used

in this study. It should be noted that in cases where cell sizes $n_{ij} = 0$, it was necessary to replace them by 0.5 in order to prevent y from being singular. For further details, see Freeman, Koch, Hunter and Lacey (1975), Appendices B and C.

A Decomposition of the Injury Rate Reduction

The Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208: Occupant Crash Protection is based on the premise that restraint systems when used offer significant occupant protection in terms of fatality and/or injury reduction. Consequently, systems that have the potential of increasing the restraint usage rate will have the potential of reducing fatality and/or injury. Thus, in analyzing the effectiveness of the VW Rabbit automatic restraint system relative to the manual restraint system, it was deemed important to determine whether there was an increase in restraint usage rates for occupants of Rabbits with automatic restraint systems, whether there was a reduction in injury rates, and, when there was a reduction in the injury rates, how much of it was attributable to the usage rate increase, how much of it was due to system differences, and how much of it was due to other factors (i.e., sample variation).

It is the purpose of this section to demonstrate that, after properly controlling for the most relevant confounding factors, the overall serious injury rate reduction can be decomposed into three components. The first component is attributable to restraint usage rate differences, the second component to system differences, and the third component to sample variations.*

More specifically, for a given factor level combination ℓ defined by the factors under control, consider the following basic table cross-classifying RABBIT TYPE by RESTRAINT USAGE by INJURY.

For simplicity of discussion, consider the following symbolic representations. The second equality in each line follows easily from Table 3.2.

*The phrase 'sample variation' refers to variation between the two types of VW Rabbits other than system differences and differences in system usage rates. In the ideal situation, 'sample variation' should be at a minimum. In practice, this component is minimized as much as possible by controlling for significant confounding factors.

Table 3.2
Distribution of sample by Rabbit type, restraint use,
and injury level.

| Rabbit Type | Restraint Not Used | | Restraint Used | | Total |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------|
| | Uninjured | Injured | Uninjured | Injured | |
| Manual | n_{l11} | n_{l12} | n_{l13} | n_{l14} | n_{l1} |
| | p_{l11}^* | p_{l12} | p_{l13} | p_{l14} | |
| Automatic | n_{l21} | n_{l22} | n_{l23} | n_{l24} | n_{l2} |
| | p_{l21} | p_{l22} | p_{l23} | p_{l24} | |

$$*p_{lij} = n_{lij}/n_{li}$$

$$R_{\ell}^M = \text{Manual restraint usage rate} = p_{l13} + p_{l14}$$

$$R_{\ell}^A = \text{Automatic restraint usage rate} = p_{l23} + p_{l24}$$

$$I_{\ell}^M = \text{Injury rate for occupants of VW's with manual restraints} = p_{l12} + p_{l14}$$

$$I_{\ell}^A = \text{Injury rate for occupants of VW's with automatic restraints} = p_{l22} + p_{l24}$$

$$I_{R,\ell}^M = \text{Injury rate given that manual restraint was used} = \frac{p_{l14}}{p_{l13} + p_{l14}}$$

$$I_{R,\ell}^A = \text{Injury rate given that automatic restraint was used} = \frac{p_{l24}}{p_{l23} + p_{l24}}$$

$$I_{\bar{R},\ell}^M = \text{Injury rate given that manual restraint was not used} = \frac{p_{l12}}{p_{l11} + p_{l12}}$$

$$I_{\bar{R},\ell}^A = \text{Injury rate given that automatic restraint was not used} = \frac{p_{l22}}{p_{l21} + p_{l22}}$$

The overall difference in injury rates between Manual and Automatic restraint systems is then given for each factor level combination ℓ by $(I_{\ell}^M - I_{\ell}^A)$ which algebraically can be shown to be equal to

$$(I_{\ell}^M - I_{\ell}^A) = (R_{\ell}^M - R_{\ell}^A)(I_{R,\ell}^M - I_{R,\ell}^M) + R_{\ell}^A(I_{R,\ell}^M - I_{R,\ell}^A) + (1 - R_{\ell}^A)(I_{\bar{R},\ell}^M - I_{\bar{R},\ell}^A) \quad (3.1)$$

Now taking the stratum weighted average of these injury differences, one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\ell} W_{\ell} (I_{\ell}^M - I_{\ell}^A) &= \sum_{\ell} W_{\ell} (R_{\ell}^M - R_{\ell}^A) (I_{R,\ell}^M - I_{R,\ell}^M) \\ &+ \sum_{\ell} W_{\ell} R_{\ell}^A (I_{R,\ell}^M - I_{R,\ell}^A) + \sum_{\ell} W_{\ell} (1 - R_{\ell}^A) (I_{\bar{R},\ell}^M - I_{\bar{R},\ell}^A) \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

It is important to point out the physical interpretation of Equation (3.1) (or Equation (3.2)). For each stratum ℓ , $(I_{R,\ell}^M - I_{R,\ell}^M)$ is the reduction in the injury rate for occupants of VW Rabbits with manual restraints as a result of manual restraint usage. Hence the component of $(I_{\ell}^M - I_{\ell}^A)$ attributed to restraint usage rate differences is given by the first term $(R_{\ell}^M - R_{\ell}^A)(I_{R,\ell}^M - I_{R,\ell}^M)$, in Equation (3.1) (or Equation (3.2)).

Similarly, $(I_{R,\ell}^M - I_{R,\ell}^A)$ is the difference in injury rates for occupants of VW Rabbits with automatic restraints relative to occupants of VW Rabbits with manual restraints when both types of systems were used. This difference represents the system differences. Consequently, the component of $(I_{\ell}^M - I_{\ell}^A)$ which is attributable to system differences is given by the second term, $R_{\ell}^A (I_{R,\ell}^M - I_{R,\ell}^A)$ in Equation (3.1) (or Equation (3.2)) which is just $(I_{R,\ell}^M - I_{R,\ell}^A)$ adjusted by the automatic restraint system usage rate (R_{ℓ}^A) .

Finally, $(I_{\bar{R},\ell}^M - I_{\bar{R},\ell}^A)$ is the difference in injury rates between occupants of VW Rabbits with automatic restraints and occupants of VW Rabbits with manual restraints when both types of restraint systems were not in use. This difference represents sample variation because, when both systems were not used, the corresponding injury rates should be approximately the same. Hence, the component of the overall difference in injury rates, $(I_{\ell}^M - I_{\ell}^A)$, which is attributable to sample variations is given by the last term $(1 - R_{\ell}^A)(I_{\bar{R},\ell}^M - I_{\bar{R},\ell}^A)$ in Equation (3.1) which is simply the difference $(I_{\bar{R},\ell}^M - I_{\bar{R},\ell}^A)$ adjusted by the automatic restraint system non-usage rate $(1 - R_{\ell}^A)$.

If both sample variation and system differences are not significant, then nearly all of the overall injury rate reduction ($I_{\ell}^M - I_{\ell}^A$) can be attributed to the difference in the restraint system usage rates. If such is not the case, then one cannot attribute all of the injury reduction to the difference in the restraint system usage rates and Equation (3.2) provides the means for estimating these individual components.

Thus, the injury rates and restraint usage rates as well as each of the three components in Equation (3.2) can be estimated using the GSK method discussed in the preceding section.

CHAPTER 4. ANALYSIS OF SIX STATES' RABBIT ACCIDENT DATA

The statistical methodology outlined in the preceding chapter is applied to the VW Rabbit accident data from each of the four states: New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado. Due to certain limitations in the accident information, only relatively simple analyses are carried out for the Alabama and South Carolina data. The results are discussed in the order of variable selection, GSK estimation procedure, and a study on the effect of missing restraint usage information for each of the four primary states.

Analysis of NEW YORK Data

Variable Selection

Table 4.1 provides a list of variables that are considered as potential confounding factors. The selection procedure is essentially that described in Chapter 3.

For each variable in Table 4.1, the Pearson Chi-square statistics for the two-way tables Variable \times RABBIT TYPE and Variable \times INJAK were calculated where

$$\text{INJAK} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if Injury} = B, C, \text{ or } O \\ 1, & \text{if Injury} = A \text{ or } K \end{cases}$$

These statistics are presented in Table 4.2. Only variables that have both Pearson Chi-square statistics significant were considered. Among these variables, the one that had the highest Chi-square statistic per degree of freedom with respect to INJAK was selected. In the present case, Restraint Usage had the largest Chi-square statistic with respect to both RABBIT TYPE and INJAK. Thus, it was selected as the first variable to be included in the analysis.

After having selected Restraint Usage, the procedure was repeated by calculating the statistics $T = \chi^2((\text{Restraint Usage} \times V) \times \text{RABBIT TYPE})$ and $T = \chi^2((\text{Restraint Usage} \times V) \times \text{INJAK})$ for the remaining variables. Table 4.3 provides a summary of these statistics for some of the more significant variables. This table shows that, after controlling for Restraint Usage, NBVEH (Number of Vehicles) was the most significant variable followed by VEHWT0 (Vehicle Weight of the Other Car).

Table 4.1
A list of variables considered as potential controls
(New York)

| Characteristics | Variable | Levels | Description of Levels |
|-----------------|--|--------|---|
| Accident | Accident year | 5 | 1975,1976,1977,1978,1979 |
| | Accident type | 4 | Car/car, car/fixed object, car/others, non-collision |
| | NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 2 | Single vehicle, multi-vehicle |
| | Light condition | 5 | Daylight, dawn, dusk, dark-road lighted, dark-road unlighted |
| | Road surface condition | 4 | Dry, wet, muddy/slush, snow/ice |
| | Type of road system | 11 | Interstate, state highway, city road, town road, municipal street, Parkway, Thruway, Northway, other limited access highway, unknown roadway, non-traffic |
| Vehicle | Model year | 5 | 1975,1976,1977,1978,1979 |
| | VEHWT0 (vehicle weight of other vehicle) | 5 | 0, under 2001, 2001-3000, 3001-4000, over 4000 |
| | Impact area | 4 | Front, left, right, rear |
| | Extent of damage | 6 | 0,1,2,3,4,5 (=severe) |
| | Tow | 2 | Towed, not towed |
| Occupant | Sex | 2 | Male, female |
| | Age group | 6 | Under 16, 16-20, 21-25, 26-35, 36-55, above 55 |
| | Seating position | 2 | Driver, right front |
| | Restraint usage | 2 | Used, not used |
| | Ejection | 2 | Yes, no |

Table 4.2

Pearson Chi-square statistics for (variable × RABBIT TYPE) and (variable × INJAK)
(New York)

| Variable | RABBIT TYPE | | INJAK | | RABBIT TYPE | | INJAK | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------|----------------|-------|---|-----|----------------|-------|
| | (Excluding unknown restraint usage cases) | | | | (Including unknown restraint usage cases) | | | |
| Accident year | 3.0 (4) 0.55* | 0.8 | 13.4 (4) 0.01 | 3.4 | 2.4 (4) 0.67 | 3.1 | 12.2 (4) 0.02 | 3.1 |
| Accident type | 2.7 (3) 0.45 | 0.9 | 71.8 (3) † | 23.9 | 6.7 (3) 0.08 | 2.2 | 94.9 (3) † | 31.6 |
| NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 0.4 (1) 0.56 | 0.4 | 55.8 (1) † | 55.8 | 0.8 (1) 0.37 | 0.8 | 72.6 (1) † | 72.6 |
| Light condition | 2.2 (4) 0.70 | 0.6 | 20.3 (4) † | 5.1 | 2.0 (4) 0.73 | 0.5 | 17.2 (4) 0.01 | 4.3 |
| Road surface condition | 2.8 (3) 0.42 | 0.9 | 1.8 (3) 0.62 | 0.6 | 1.2 (3) 0.75 | 0.4 | 3.0 (3) 0.39 | 0.0 |
| Type of road system | 16.8(10) 0.08 | 1.7 | 10.5(10) 0.40 | 1.1 | 22.3(10) 0.01 | 2.2 | 19.2(10) 0.04 | 1.9 |
| Model year | 26.8 (4) 0.001 | 6.7 | 8.3 (4) 0.08 | 2.1 | 22.7 (4) 0.001 | 5.7 | 12.0 (4) 0.02 | 3.0 |
| VEHWT0 (Veh. wt. of other car) | 9.3 (4) 0.05 | 2.3 | 56.2 (4) † | 14.0 | 7.9 (4) 0.10 | 2.0 | 73.4 (4) † | 18.4 |
| Impact area | 1.2 (3) 0.76 | 0.4 | 21.1 (3) 0.001 | 7.0 | 1.8 (3) 0.62 | 0.6 | 17.4 (3) 0.006 | 11.7 |
| Extent of damage | 4.2 (5) 0.53 | 0.8 | 231.5 (5) † | 46.3 | 4.9 (5) 0.43 | 1.0 | 260.2 (5) † | 52.1 |
| Tow | 0.3 (1) 0.59 | 0.3 | 87.1 (1) † | 87.1 | 0.2 (1) 0.64 | 0.2 | 115.2 (1) † | 115.2 |
| Sex | 1.6 (1) 0.20 | 1.6 | 3.8 (1) 0.05 | 3.8 | 1.6 (1) 0.21 | 1.6 | 6.3 (1) 0.01 | 6.3 |
| Age group | 1.9 (5) 0.86 | 0.4 | 1.0 (5) 0.96 | 0.2 | 2.3 (5) 0.72 | 0.6 | 1.3 (5) 0.94 | 0.3 |
| Seating position | 0.8 (1) 0.38 | 0.8 | 1.0 (1) 0.33 | 1.0 | 1.3 (1) 0.25 | 1.3 | 0.3 (1) 0.57 | 0.3 |
| Restraint usage | 240.7 (1) † | 240.7 | 27.2 (1) † | 27.2 | N.A. | | N.A. | |
| Ejection | 1.0 (1) 0.31 | 1.0 | 204.5 (1) † | 204.5 | 0.8 (1) 0.38 | 0.8 | 204.1 (1) † | 204.1 |

*. = 3.0 (d.f. = 4) p-value = 0.55
x²/d.f. = 0.8

†p-value < 0.001
N.A. = not applicable

Table 4.3
Pearson Chi-square statistics for ((Restraint usage \times V) \times RABBIT TYPE)
and ((Restraint usage \times V) \times INJAK)
(New York)

| Variable (V) | $\left(\begin{matrix} \text{Restraint} \\ \text{Usage} \end{matrix} \times V \right) \times \text{RABBIT TYPE}$ | $\left(\begin{matrix} \text{Restraint} \\ \text{Usage} \end{matrix} \times V \right) \times \text{INJAK}$ |
|--|--|--|
| NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 241.4 (3)* 80.5 | 85.8 (3) 28.6 |
| Type of road system | 269.3 (20) 13.5 | 47.5 (20) 2.4 |
| Model year | 287.4 (9) 31.9 | 39.4 (9) 4.4 |
| VEHWT0 (Vehicle weight of other vehicle) | 265.2 (9) 39.5 | 86.5 (9) 9.6 |
| Impact area | 133.0 (7) 19.0 | 48.2 (7) 6.9 |

$$\begin{aligned} *x^2 &= 241.4 \quad (\text{d.f.} = 3) \\ x^2/\text{d.f.} &= 80.5 \end{aligned}$$

An examination of the x^2 values in Table 4.3 indicates that further repetition of the screening procedure will not be useful, hence the procedure is terminated by selecting both NBVEH and VEHWT0 at this stage.

Estimation Procedure

The analysis conducted in this section is based upon the variables Restraint Usage, NBVEH, and VEHWT0 selected in the preceding section.

From Table 4.2, one notes that the $x^2(\text{Restraint usage} \times \text{RABBIT TYPE}) = 240.7$ with 1 degree of freedom which is significantly higher than all the other values. This indicates that Restraint Usage Rates between manual and automatic restraint systems are significantly different. Furthermore, $x^2(\text{Restraint Usage} \times \text{INJAK}) = 27.21$ with 1 degree of freedom which implies that Restraint Usage Rates are significantly different between the injured and the uninjured occupants. Consequently, the focus of the ensuing analysis will be on estimating the restraint usage rates, the overall (A+K)-injury rates for occupants of VW Rabbits with manual and automatic restraint systems, and the three components of the

overall injury rate reduction which will provide simultaneously an estimate for the component due to differential restraint usage rates, an estimate for the component due to system differences, and an estimate for the component due to sample variations that remain unaccounted for after controlling for NBVEH and VEHWTO.

These estimates can be obtained by applying the GSK method to the multi-dimensional contingency Table 4.4 generated by the cross-classification NBVEH \times VEHWTO \times RABBIT TYPE \times (RESTRAINT USAGE \times INJAK).

Table 4.4
Data for VW manual and automatic restraint comparison
relative to (A+K)-injury characterization
(New York)

| NBVEH | VEHWTO * | Rabbit Type | Restraint Not Used | | Restraint Used | | Margin Total | Stratum Total (W_g) |
|-------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Uninjured | Injured | Uninjured | Injured | | |
| 1 | None | M | 327 | 56 | 144 | 15 | 542 | 672 |
| | | A | 48 | 10 | 69 | 3 | 130 | [0.16] |
| 2+ | Under 2001 | M | 641 | 42 | 284 | 7 | 974 | 1246 |
| | | A | 117 | 7 | 145 | 3 | 272 | [0.29] |
| | 2001- 3000 | M | 346 | 24 | 162 | 5 | 537 | 648 |
| | | A | 54 | 3 | 51 | 3 | 111 | [0.15] |
| | 3001- 4000 | M | 641 | 43 | 255 | 4 | 943 | 1169 |
| | | A | 72 | 5 | 142 | 7 | 226 | [0.27] |
| | Over 4000 | M | 276 | 18 | 108 | 3 | 405 | 526 |
| | | A | 50 | 2 | 67 | 2 | 121 | [0.12] |
| | Total | | 2572 | 210 | 1427 | 52 | | 4261 |

*Weight of the other vehicle.

In Table 4.4, for each stratum represented by a given factor level combination of (NBVEH \times VEHWTO), the (Restraint Usage \times INJAK) distributions, assumed to be multinomial, are contrasted between manual and automatic restraint type. The corresponding stratum weight [W_g] is given in the last column.

First a saturated model was fit to the observed injury rates \underline{P} via the linear model $\underline{P} = \underline{X}_S \underline{\beta}$, where \underline{P} , $\underline{\beta}$ (the parameter vector), and \underline{X}_S (the saturated design matrix) are given below. The first column of the design matrix

$$\underline{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.603 & 0.103 & 0.266 \\ 0.369 & 0.077 & 0.531 \\ 0.658 & 0.043 & 0.292 \\ 0.430 & 0.026 & 0.533 \\ 0.644 & 0.045 & 0.302 \\ 0.486 & 0.027 & 0.459 \\ 0.680 & 0.046 & 0.270 \\ 0.319 & 0.022 & 0.628 \\ 0.681 & 0.044 & 0.267 \\ 0.413 & 0.017 & 0.554 \end{bmatrix} \quad \underline{X}_S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \underline{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_3 \\ \beta_4 \\ \beta_5 \\ \beta_6 \\ \beta_7 \\ \beta_8 \\ \beta_9 \\ \beta_{10} \end{bmatrix}$$

represents the overall mean injury rate, the second column represents the main effect for NBVEH, the next three columns represent the main effects for VEHWT0 (4 levels), the sixth column represents the effect of RABBIT TYPE, and the last four columns represent, respectively, the interaction effects for NBVEH \times RABBIT TYPE and VEHWT0 \times RABBIT TYPE. The i -th parameter, β_i , corresponds to the i -th column of \underline{X} .

A series of models were then successively fitted where the design matrix \underline{X} at each stage was obtained by deleting all columns of the immediately preceding design matrix that corresponded to non-significant main effects and/or interaction terms. Once the final design matrix \underline{X}_f had been obtained (i.e., when a model was obtained which provided an adequate fit to the data), then the model coefficient estimates $\hat{\underline{\beta}}$ are given by

$$\hat{\underline{\beta}} = (\underline{X}_f' \underline{V}^{-1} (\underline{X}_f)^{-1} (\underline{X}_f' \underline{V}^{-1} \underline{P}))$$

$$\underline{V}(\hat{\underline{\beta}}) = (\underline{X}_f' \underline{V}^{-1} \underline{X}_f)^{-1}$$

where \underline{V} is the covariance matrix for \underline{P} . The predicted values for \underline{P} can then be obtained from

$$\hat{\underline{P}} = \underline{X}_f \hat{\underline{\beta}}$$

with covariance matrix

$$\underline{V}(\hat{\underline{P}}) = \underline{X}_f (\underline{X}_f' \underline{V}^{-1} \underline{X}_f)^{-1} \underline{X}_f'$$

The estimates for Restraint Usage Rates, for Overall Injury Rates, and for the three terms on the right side of Equation (3.2) can then be derived from $\hat{\underline{P}}$.

Figure 4.1
Observed (\hat{p}) and predicted (\hat{p}) multinomial probabilities
final design matrix \hat{X}_f , and model coefficients $\hat{\beta}$
(New York)

| NBVEH | VEHWT0* | Rabbit Type | Multinomial Probability | | | | Final Design Matrix \hat{X}_f | Model Coefficients $\hat{\beta}$ |
|-------|----------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | Restraint Not Used Uninjured $\hat{p}_{i1}(\hat{p}_{i1})$ | Restraint Not Used Injured $\hat{p}_{i2}(\hat{p}_{i2})$ | Restraint Used Uninjured $\hat{p}_{i3}(\hat{p}_{i3})$ | Restraint Used Injured $\hat{p}_{i4}(\hat{p}_{i4})$ | | |
| 1 | None | M | 0.603 (0.602) | 0.103 (0.102) | 0.266 (0.270) | 0.028** | 1 1 0 1 0 | β_1 |
| | | A | 0.369 (0.379) | 0.077 (0.081) | 0.531 (0.509) | 0.023 | 1 1 0 0 0 | β_2 |
| 2+ | 1 - 2000 | M | 0.658 (0.660) | 0.043 (0.044) | 0.292 (0.288) | 0.007 | 1 0 0 1 0 | β_3 |
| | | A | 0.430 (0.437) | 0.026 (0.023) | 0.533 (0.528) | 0.011 | 1 0 0 0 0 | β_4 |
| | 2001 - 3000 | M | 0.644 (0.660) | 0.045 (0.044) | 0.302 (0.288) | 0.009 | 1 0 0 1 0 | β_5 |
| | | A | 0.486 (0.437) | 0.027 (0.023) | 0.459 (0.528) | 0.027 | 1 0 0 0 0 | 5×3 |
| | 3001 - 4000 | M | 0.680 (0.680) | 0.046 (0.046) | 0.270 (0.270) | 0.004 | 1 0 1 1 1 | |
| | | A | 0.319 (0.319) | 0.022 (0.022) | 0.628 (0.628) | 0.031 | 1 0 1 0 0 | |
| | Over 4000 | M | 0.681 (0.660) | 0.044 (0.044) | 0.267 (0.288) | 0.007 | 1 0 0 1 0 | |
| | | A | 0.413 (0.437) | 0.017 (0.023) | 0.554 (0.528) | 0.017 | 1 0 0 0 0 | |

*Weight of the other vehicle.

**Since each subpopulation is assumed to have a multinomial distribution, the sum across each row is 1. Hence for the purpose of modeling, one of the four proportions can be omitted. In this analysis, the last column of \hat{p} is omitted. Consequently, $\hat{p}_{i4} = 1 - \sum_j \hat{p}_{ij}$

Figure 4.1 (continued)

| Interpretation of Model Coefficients | Model Coefficients | Coefficient Estimates | Standard Deviations |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Overall Mean | β_1 | [0.437, 0.023, 0.528] | [0.020, 0.006, 0.020] |
| Main Effects: NBVEH | β_2 | [-0.058, 0.058, -0.018] | [0.021, 0.012, 0.020] |
| V_3 (VEHWT0=3001-4000) | β_3 | [-0.118, -0.001, 0.101] | [0.037, 0.012, 0.038] |
| R (Rabbit Type) | β_4 | [0.224, 0.021, -0.240] | [0.022, 0.008, 0.022] |
| Interaction: $V_3 \times R$ | β_5 | [0.138, 0.002, -0.118] | [0.041, 0.014, 0.041] |

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Test Statistics for $H_0: \beta_i = 0$

| Model Coefficients | χ^2 | d.f. | p-Value |
|--------------------|----------|------|---------|
| β_1 | 39963.8 | 3 | < 0.001 |
| β_2 | 32.7 | 3 | < 0.001 |
| β_3 | 11.5 | 3 | 0.009 |
| β_4 | 128.5 | 3 | < 0.001 |
| β_5 | 13.6 | 3 | 0.004 |

Goodness-of-fit Statistic

Goodness-of-fit Statistic: χ^2 due to error = 5.89 with 15 degrees of freedom and $p = 0.98$

The final design matrix X_f , the observed and predicted multinomial probabilities, the estimated model coefficients and the goodness-of-fit statistic are all summarized in Figure 4.1.

The χ^2 goodness-of-fit statistic for the final model is 5.89 with 15 degrees of freedom and with an associated p-value of 0.98. This indicates that the final model fits the data very well.

The estimated model coefficients show that NBVEH(β_2) and V_3 (VEHWT0 = 3001-4000 vs. others)(β_3) are significant confounding factors. The significance of RABBIT TYPE (β_4) implies that the overall (Restraint usage \times INJAK) distributions are significantly different between the two Rabbit types. Furthermore, the significance of the interaction ($V_3 \times$ RABBIT TYPE) implies that the differences in Rabbit types are differentially more important in the stratum defined by (NBVEH = 2+, VEHWT0 = 3001-4000).

The significant difference in the (Restraint usage \times INJAK) distribution between the two Rabbit types is mainly attributable to restraint usage rate differences. Estimates for the restraint usage rates, overall (A+K)-injury rates, the three components on the right side of Equation (3.2), and the corresponding differences and effectiveness can be obtained from the final model. These estimates are all summarized in Table 4.5.

These figures show, among other things, that the presence of automatic restraint systems results in almost a doubling of the restraint usage rate in accidents and a corresponding decrease in serious injuries by a factor of about one-fifth. However, here one also obtains estimates for three components given in the decomposition formula (Equation 3.2) for the overall injury rate reduction. More specifically, the estimates show that the component attributed to restraint usage rate differences is 1.22% which is statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.05$, the component attributed to system differences is -0.22% which is not statistically significant, and that the component attributed to sample variations is 0.09% which is also not statistically significant.

The overall effectiveness of the automatic restraint system in reducing (A+K)-injury is estimated to be 17.27% which is not statistically significant. However, the effectiveness of the automatic restraint system attributed to the increased automatic restraint usage rate is 19.27% which is statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.05$. The reason for the smaller overall effectiveness estimate for the automatic restraint system is apparently due to the negative component due to the restraint system which cancels out part of the positive effectiveness of the system due to the increased automatic restraint usage rate.

Table 4.5
Estimates for restraint usage rates, (A+K)-injury rates, components
comprising the overall (A+K)-injury rate reduction and effectiveness
(New York)

| | Estimates (%) (Standard Error) | | Difference (%)* Manual - Automatic (Standard Error) | Effectiveness (%) Relative to Manual (Standard Error) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| | Manual | Automatic | | |
| Restraint Usage Rate | 28.96 (1.67) | 57.25 (1.84) | 28.29 [†] (0.78) | 97.71 [†] (7.81) |
| (A+K)-Injury Rate | 6.33 (0.41) | 5.24 (0.72) | 1.09 (0.81) | 17.27 (12.30) |
| Components of Variation in (A+K)-Injury Rate Differences: | | | | |
| Attributed to Restraint Usage Rate Differences | | | 1.22 [†] (0.23) | 19.27 [†] (3.34) |
| Attributed to System Differences | | | -0.22 (0.56) | -3.48 (8.85) |
| Attributed to Sample Variations | | | 0.09 (0.58) | 1.48 (7.92) |

Absolute value of the difference.

[†]Statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$.

The Effect of Deleting Cases with Missing Restraint Usage Information.

From Table 4.6, one can observe that restraint usage information is missing from approximately 16 percent of the cases. In this section, the potential effect of the deletion of these cases will be examined from the following three different angles.

First, Table 4.6 shows that the proportion of cases with missing restraint usage information is not significantly different between the two types of Rabbit restraint systems. This indicates that the cases with missing restraint usage information are not overrepresented in one particular type of restraint system.

Table 4.6
Availability of Rabbit type by restraint usage information
(New York)

| RABBIT Type | Known Restraint Usage | Unknown Restraint Usage | Total |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Manual | 3401 (84.71%) | 614 (15.29%) | 4015 [79.57%] |
| Automatic | 860 (83.41%) | 171 (16.59%) | 1031 [20.43%] |
| Total | 4261 (84.44%) | 785 (15.56%) | 5046 |

$$\chi^2 = 1.04, \text{ d.f.} = 1 \text{ with } p = 0.31$$

Secondly, Table 4.2 contrasts the Pearson Chi-square statistics based on the total population to the Pearson Chi-square statistics based on the subpopulation with known restraint usage information. The deletion of unknown restraint usage cases does not seem to change appreciably the Chi-square statistics which implies that their deletion does not tend to distort the underlying association between these variables and RABBIT TYPE and also INJAK.

Thirdly, Table 4.7 compares the injury rates between the manual and the automatic restraint systems based on the total population, while Table 4.8 provides the same comparison based on the subpopulation with known restraint usage information. These two tables together show that, by deleting the cases

Table 4.7
(Rabbit Type \times INJAK) distribution for total population
(New York)

| Total Population | INJAK | | Total |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | 0 | 1 | |
| Manual | 3773 (93.97%) | 242 (6.03%) | 4015 [79.57%] |
| Automatic | 983 (95.34%) | 48 (4.66%) | 1031 [20.43%] |
| Total | 4756 (94.25%) | 290 (5.75%) | 5046 |

Table 4.8
(Rabbit Type × INJAK) distribution for the subpopulation
with known restraint usage information
(New York)

| Known Restraint Usage | INJAK | | Total |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | 0 | 1 | |
| Manual | 3184 (93.62%) | 217 (6.38%) | 3401 [79.82%] |
| Automatic | 815 (94.77%) | 45 (5.23%) | 860 [20.18%] |
| Total | 3999 (93.85%) | 262 (6.15%) | 4261 |

with unknown restraint usage information, the serious injury rate for occupants of manual restraint system Rabbits increases from 6.03 percent to 6.38 percent, a 0.35 percent increase, while the injury rate for occupants of automatic restraint system Rabbits increases from 4.66 percent to 5.23 percent, a 0.57 percent increase. This suggests that the subsequent effectiveness estimate will be on the conservative side since the deletion of these unknown restraint usage cases decreases the observed injury rate difference from 1.37 (= 6.03 - 4.66) percent to 1.15 (= 6.38 - 5.23) percent.

With these observations, one concludes that the overall effect on the resulting estimates of the deletion of cases with unknown restraint usage will be minimal. Furthermore, the effectiveness estimates will tend to be on the conservative side.

Analysis of NORTH CAROLINA Data

Variable Selection.

Table 4.9 is a list of variables considered as potential controls. Variables that are identical to those appearing in Table 4.1 for New York State are similarly defined. Overall, the two lists are quite comparable.

Again for each variable in Table 4.9, the Pearson Chi-square statistics for the two-way tables Variable × RABBIT TYPE and Variable × INJAK were calculated where INJAK is defined as before. These statistics are presented in Table 4.10. Among the variables Model Year, VEHWT0, and Restraint Usage which have

Table 4.9

A list of variables considered as potential controls
(North Carolina)

| Characteristics | Variable | Levels | Level Description |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------|--|
| Accident | Means of involvement | 7 | Ran off road, hit fixed object, hit non-fixed object, car vs. car, car vs. truck/bus, more than two vehicles involved, other |
| | NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 2 | Single vehicle, multi-vehicle |
| | Road surface condition | 4 | Dry, wet, muddy, snowy/icy |
| Vehicle | Model year | 5 | 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979 |
| | VEHWT0 (weight of other vehicle) | 5 | 0, 1-2000, 2001-3000, 3001-4000, over 4000 |
| | Region of impact | 5 | Front, right side, left side, rear, unspecified |
| | TAD (vehicle damage) severity | 8 | 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (= severe) |
| | Vehicle drivability | 2 | Drivable, not drivable |
| Occupant | Sex | 2 | Male, female |
| | Age group | 6 | Under 16, 16-20, 21-25, 26-35, 36-55, over 55 |
| | Race | 2 | White, non-white |
| | Restraint usage | 2 | Used, not used |

significant χ^2 values with respect to both RABBIT TYPE and INJAK, Restraint Usage is again the most significant variable. Thus, it is the first variable to be included in the analysis.

Again having selected Restraint Usage, the procedure is repeated by calculating the statistics $T_1 = \chi^2((\text{Restraint Usage} \times V) \times \text{RABBIT TYPE})$ and $T_2 = \chi^2((\text{Restraint Usage} \times V) \times \text{INJAK})$ for the remaining variables. Table 4.11 is a summary of these statistics for the more significant variables.

NBVEH has the most significant χ^2 values with respect to both RABBIT TYPE and INJAK. Thus it is the second variable to be selected. Due to sample size restriction, the procedure is terminated after including the variable VEHWT0, which is the second-most significant variable in Table 4.11. The variable TAD severity is not considered for two reasons. First, its Chi-square statistic

Table 4.10
Pearson Chi-Square statistics for (VARIABLE × RABBIT TYPE)
and (VARIABLE × INJAK)
(North Carolina)

| Variable | RABBIT TYPE (Excluding unknown restraint usage) | | RABBIT TYPE (Including unknown restraint usage) | |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| | INJAK | | INJAK | |
| Means of involvement | 6.9 (6) 0.33* 1.1 | 68.0 (6) † 11.3 | 6.5 (6) 0.37 1.1 | 66.7 (6) † 11.1 |
| NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 0.3 (1) 0.61 0.3 | 43.6 (1) † 43.6 | 0.3 (1) 0.57 0.3 | 44.6 (1) † 44.6 |
| Road surface condition | 0.8 (3) 0.84 0.3 | 0.3 (3) 0.96 0.1 | 0.5 (3) 0.91 0.2 | 0.3 (3) 0.96 0.1 |
| Model year | 29.0 (4) † 7.3 | 4.4 (4) 0.35 1.1 | 36.5 (4) † 9.1 | 7.7 (4) 0.10 1.9 |
| VEHWT0 (Vehicle wt. of other vehicle) | 12.3 (4) † 3.1 | 10.9 (4) 0.03 2.7 | 10.0 (4) 0.04 2.5 | 15.7 (4) † 3.9 |
| Region of impact | 4.3 (4) 0.36 1.1 | 30.1 (4) † 7.5 | 3.8 (4) 0.43 1.0 | 36.2 (4) † 9.1 |
| TAD severity | 8.4 (7) 0.30 1.2 | 185.9 (7) † 26.6 | 10.1 (7) 0.18 1.5 | 238.2 (7) † 34.0 |
| Drivability | 2.3 (1) 0.13 2.3 | 96.0 (1) † 96.0 | 2.6 (1) 0.11 2.6 | 104.6 (1) † 104.6 |
| Sex | 2.6 (1) 0.11 2.6 | 1.0 (1) 0.33 1.0 | 3.0 (1) 0.08 3.0 | 1.5 (1) 0.23 1.5 |
| Age | 16.0 (5) 0.01 3.2 | 3.7 (5) 0.60 0.7 | 15.3 (5) 0.01 3.1 | 4.2 (5) 0.52 0.8 |
| Race | 2.4 (1) 0.12 2.4 | 2.4 (1) 0.13 2.4 | 2.0 (1) 0.16 2.0 | 2.6 (1) 0.10 2.6 |
| Restraint usage | 130.8 (1) † 130.8 | 5.9 (1) 0.02 5.9 | N.A. | N.A. |

* $\chi^2 = 6.9$ (d.f. = 6) p-value = 0.33
 $\chi^2/\text{d.f.} = 1.1$

†p-value < 0.001
N.A. = Not applicable

Table 4.11
Pearson Chi-Square statistics for (RESTRAINT USAGE × V) ×
RABBIT TYPE and (RESTRAINT USAGE × V) × INJAK
(North Carolina)

| Variable | $\left(\begin{matrix} \text{Restraint} \\ \text{Usage} \end{matrix} \times V \right) \times \text{RABBIT Type}$ | $\left(\begin{matrix} \text{Restraint} \\ \text{Usage} \end{matrix} \times V \right) \times \text{INJAK}$ |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Means of involvement | 156.1 (13)* 12.0 | 80.7 (13) 6.2 |
| NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 136.6 (3) 45.5 | 56.2 (3) 18.7 |
| Road surface condition | 74.3 (7) 10.6 | 10.3 (7) 1.5 |
| Model year | 178.8 (9) 19.4 | 22.2 (9) 2.5 |
| VEHWT0 (Weight of other vehicle) | 155.8 (9) 17.3 | 57.9 (9) 6.4 |
| Region of impact | 123.0 (9) 13.7 | 38.4 (9) 4.3 |
| Drivability | 9.8 (3) 9.3 | 96.4 (3) 32.1 |
| TAD severity | 130.1 (13) 10.0 | 190.0 (13) 14.6 |
| Sex | 36.2 (3) 12.0 | 3.3 (3) 1.1 |
| Age | 159.7 (9) 17.7 | 11.0 (9) 1.2 |

* $\chi^2 = 156.1$ (d.f. = 13)
 $\chi^2/\text{d.f.} = 12.0$

with respect to RABBIT TYPE is not as significant as VEHWT0, and secondly, it has eight categories whereas VEHWT0 has only five categories, which is important due to sample size restrictions.

Estimation Procedure.

To obtain estimates for Restraint Usage Rates, Overall Serious Injury Rates, and for the three terms on the right side of Equation (3.2), the GSK method is applied to the multi-dimensional contingency table generated by the cross-classification NBVEH \times VEHWT0 \times RABBIT TYPE \times (Restraint Usage \times INJAK) where each subpopulation (row) is assumed to follow a multinomial distribution. (see Table 4.12).

Table 4.12
NBVEH \times VEHWT0 \times RABBIT TYPE \times (RESTRAINT USAGE \times INJAK)
(North Carolina)

| NBVEH | VEHWT0* | Rabbit Type | Restraint Not Used Uninjured | Restraint Not Used Injured | Restraint Used Uninjured | Restraint Used Injured | Margin Total | Stratum Total (W_k) |
|-------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | None | M | 144 | 27 | 22 | 1 | 194 | 256 |
| | | A | 30 | 2 | 29 | 1 | 62 | [0.17] |
| 2+ | 1-2000 | M | 142 | 3 | 23 | 0 | 168 | 224 |
| | | A | 31 | 2 | 22 | 1 | 56 | [0.15] |
| | 2001-3000 | M | 214 | 7 | 42 | 0 | 263 | 322 |
| | | A | 33 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 59 | [0.22] |
| | 3001-4000 | M | 272 | 11 | 70 | 1 | 354 | 484 |
| | | A | 82 | 2 | 45 | 1 | 130 | [0.33] |
| | Over 4000 | M | 122 | 10 | 27 | 0 | 159 | 192 |
| | | A | 13 | 0 | 17 | 3 | 33 | [0.13] |
| Total | | | 1083 | 64 | 323 | 8 | | 1478 |

*Weight of the other vehicle

First a saturated model was fit to the observed injury rates \underline{P} via the linear model $\underline{P} = \underline{X}_s \underline{\beta}$ where $\underline{\beta}$, the parameter vector, and \underline{X}_s the saturated design matrix are given on page 44. A series of models were then successively fitted. The final design matrix \underline{X}_f , the observed and predicted multinomial probabilities, the estimated model coefficients and the goodness-of-fit statistic are summarized in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2
Observed (\hat{P}) and predicted (\hat{P}) multinomial probabilities.
Final design matrix X_f , and model coefficients
(North Carolina)

Multinomial Probability

| NBVEH | VEHWT0 | Rabbit Type | Multinomial Probability | | | | Final Design Matrix X_f | Model Coefficients $\hat{\beta}$ |
|-------|-----------|-------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | Restraint Not Used Uninjured $\hat{P}_{i1}(\hat{P}_{i1})$ | Restraint Not Used Injured $\hat{P}_{i2}(\hat{P}_{i2})$ | Restraint Used Uninjured $\hat{P}_{i3}(\hat{P}_{i3})$ | Restraint Used Injured $\hat{P}_{i4}(\hat{P}_{i4})$ | | |
| 1 | None | M | 0.742 (0.742) | 0.139 (0.139) | 0.113 (0.113) | 0.005* | 1 0 1 1 0 | β_1 |
| | | A | 0.484 (0.506) | 0.032 (0.026) | 0.468 (0.448) | 0.016 | 1 0 0 0 0 | β_2 |
| 2+ | 1-2000 | M | 0.840 (0.813) | 0.018 (0.027) | 0.136 (0.155) | 0.006 | 1 0 1 0 0 | β_3 |
| | | A | 0.554 (0.506) | 0.036 (0.026) | 0.393 (0.448) | 0.018 | 1 0 0 0 0 | β_4 |
| | 2001-3000 | M | 0.811 (0.813) | 0.027 (0.027) | 0.159 (0.155) | 0.004 | 1 0 1 0 0 | β_5 |
| | | A | 0.541 (0.506) | 0.016 (0.026) | 0.426 (0.448) | 0.016 | 1 0 0 0 0 | |
| | 3001-4000 | M | 0.768 (0.768) | 0.031 (0.031) | 0.198 (0.198) | 0.003 | 1 1 1 0 1 | |
| | | A | 0.631 (0.631) | 0.015 (0.015) | 0.346 (0.346) | 0.008 | 1 1 0 0 0 | |
| | Over 4000 | M | 0.763 (0.813) | 0.063 (0.027) | 0.169 (0.155) | 0.006 | 1 0 1 0 0 | |
| | | A | 0.382 (0.506) | 0.029 (0.026) | 0.500 (0.448) | 0.088 | 1 0 0 0 0 | |

*Since each subpopulation is assumed to have a multinomial distribution, the sum across each row is 1. Hence for the purpose of modeling, one of the four proportions can be omitted. In this analysis, the last column of \hat{P} is omitted. Consequently, $\hat{P}_{i4} = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^3 \hat{P}_{ij}$.

Figure 4.2 (continued)

| Interpretation of Model Coefficients | Model Coefficients | Coefficient Estimates | Standard Deviations |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Overall Mean | β_1 | [0.506, 0.026, 0.448] | [0.034, 0.011, 0.034] |
| Main Effects: | | | |
| V ₃ (VEHWT0=3001-4000) | β_2 | [0.125, -0.011, -0.102] | [0.054, 0.015, 0.054] |
| R (RABBIT TYPE) | β_3 | [0.307, 0.001 -0.293] | [0.037, 0.013, 0.037] |
| Interaction: | | | |
| NBVEH × R | β_4 | [-0.070, 0.112, -0.042] | [0.035, 0.026, 0.027] |
| V ₃ × R | β_5 | [-0.169, 0.015, 0.145] | [0.061, 0.019, 0.056] |

Test Statistics for $H_0: \beta_i = 0$

| Model Coefficients | χ^2 | d.f. | p-Value |
|--------------------|----------|------|------------|
| β_1 | 10868.31 | 3 | $p < 0.01$ |
| β_2 | 5.93 | 3 | 0.12 |
| β_3 | 70.45 | 3 | $p < 0.01$ |
| β_4 | 19.99 | 3 | $p < 0.01$ |
| β_5 | 7.97 | 3 | 0.05 |

Goodness-of-fit Statistic: χ^2 due to error = 10.56 with 15 degrees of freedom and $p = 0.72$

The χ^2 goodness-of-fit statistic for the final model is 10.56 with 13 degrees of freedom and with a corresponding p-value of 0.78 indicating an adequate fit.

The model coefficient estimates show that the overall effect of RABBIT TYPE (β_3) is significant. This is to say that, overall, the (RESTRAINT USAGE \times INJAK) distributions are significantly different between the two Rabbit types. The significance of V_3 (VEHWT0 = 3000-4000 vs others) (β_2) indicates that its overall importance as a confounding factor is marginal. However, the significance of the interaction $V_3 \times$ RABBIT TYPE (β_5) shows that for the stratum defined by (NBVEH = 2+, VEHWT0= 3001-4000), there are significant differences in the (Restraint Usage \times INJAK) distributions over and above those accounted for by RABBIT TYPE (β_3). The same is true for the stratum defined by (NBVEH = 1) in view of the significance of the interaction NBVEH \times RABBIT TYPE (β_4).

The desired estimates and their associated standard errors are then derived as before from $\hat{P} = X_f \hat{\beta}$, and $V(\hat{P}) = X_f (X_f' V^{-1} X_f)^{-1} X_f'$ where V is the covariance matrix associated with β . These estimates are summarized in Table 4.13.

Table 4.13

Estimates for restraint usage rates, (A+K)-Injury rates, overall injury rate reduction, three components comprising the overall injury rate reduction and effectiveness (North Carolina)

| | Estimates (%) (Standard Error) | | Difference (%)* (Manual - Automatic) (Standard Error) | Effectiveness (%) (Relative to Manual) (Standard Error) |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| | Manual | Automatic | | |
| Restraint Usage rate | 16.63 (1.10) | 43.08 (2.66) | 26.45 [†] (2.87) | 159.07 [†] (23.42) |
| Injury rate | 5.21 (0.65) | 3.83 (1.05) | 1.38 (1.23) | 26.38 (22.06) |
| Components of Variation in (A+K)-Injury Rate Differences | | | | |
| Attributed to restraint usage rate differences | | | 0.85 [†] (0.45) | 16.33 [†] (8.40) |
| Attributed to system differences | | | -0.35 (0.87) | -6.81 (17.12) |
| Attributed to sample variations | | | 0.88 (0.90) | 16.87 (16.62) |

*Absolute value of the difference.

[†]Statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$.

The figures above show, among other things, that the presence of automatic restraint systems results in more than a doubling of the restraint usage rate in accidents and a decrease in serious injuries by a factor of over 25 percent. Estimates for the three components of Equation (3.2) show that the component attributed to a restraint usage rate increase is 0.85 percent which is statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.05$ level while the component attributed to sample variations is 0.88 percent and the component attributed to system differences is -0.35 percent, both of which are not statistically significant.

The overall effectiveness of the automatic restraint system in reducing (A+K)-injury is estimated to be 26.38 percent which is not statistically significant. However, the component of the serious injury rate variation attributed to increased usage of automatic restraints is 16.33 percent which is statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$ level.

The estimate of 0.88 percent for the component attributed to sample variations is relatively large in comparison to the first component attributed to restraint usage rate differences. This suggests that the remaining sample variations after controlling for NBVEH and VEHWT0 are still substantial.

The Effect of Deleting Cases with Missing Restraint Usage Information

Table 4.14 indicates that about 10 percent of the cases have missing restraint usage information. The potential effect of their deletion from the preceding analysis will be examined below

First, Table 4.14 shows that the proportion of cases with missing restraint usage information is not significantly different between the two types of Rabbit restraint systems. This implies that the cases with unknown restraint usage information are not overrepresented in one particular type of restraint system.

Table 4.14
RABBIT TYPE \times RESTRAINT USAGE information availability
(North Carolina)

| RABBIT TYPE | Known Restraint Usage | Unknown Restraint Usage | Total |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Manual | 1426 (90.25%) | 154 (9.75%) | 1580 [77.19%] |
| Automatic | 425 (91.01%) | 42 (8.99%) | 196 [22.81%] |
| Total | 1851 (90.43%) | 196 (9.57%) | 2047 |

$$\chi^2 = 0.24, \text{ d.f.} = 1 \text{ with } p = 0.63$$

Next, Table 4.10 compares the Pearson Chi-square statistics based on the total population to the Pearson Chi-square statistics based on the subpopulation with known restraint usage information. The deletion of unknown restraint usage cases again does not seem to change the Chi-square statistic significantly which implies that their deletion does not tend to distort the underlying relationships between these variables and RABBIT TYPE, and also INJAK.

Finally, Table 4.15 compares the injury rates between the manual and the automatic restraint systems based on the total population, and Table 4.16 provides an analogous comparison based on the subpopulation with known restraint usage information. These two tables together show that, by deleting the cases

Table 4.15
(RABBIT TYPE × INJAK) based on total population
(North Carolina)

| Total Population | INJAK | | Total |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | 0 | 1 | |
| Manual | 1505 (95.25%) | 75 (4.75%) | 1580 [77.19%] |
| Automatic | 451 (96.57%) | 16 (3.43%) | 467 [22.81%] |
| Total | 1956 (95.55%) | 91 (4.45%) | 2047 |

Table 4.16
(RABBIT TYPE × INJAK) based on subpopulation
with known restraint usage information
(North Carolina)

| Known Restraint Usage | INJAK | | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | 0 | 1 | |
| Manual | 1361 (95.44%) | 65 (4.56%) | 1426 [77.04%] |
| Automatic | 410 (96.47%) | 15 (3.53%) | 425 [22.96%] |
| Total | 1771 (95.68%) | 80 (4.32%) | 1851 |

with unknown restraint usage information, the injury rates for occupants of manual restraint systems decreases from 4.75 percent to 4.56 percent, while the injury rate for occupants of automatic restraint systems increases from 3.43 percent to 3.53 percent. Together this suggests that the subsequent effectiveness estimate will be on the conservative side. The deletion of these cases with unknown restraint usage information decreases the injury rate reduction from 1.32 (=4.75 - 3.43) percent to 1.03 (=4.56 - 3.53) percent.

Thus, one can reasonably conclude that deleting unknown restraint usage cases has a minimal effect on the resulting estimates. Indeed, the effectiveness estimates will tend to be on the conservative side.

Analysis of MARYLAND Data

Variable Selection.

The list of variables considered as potential controls for the Maryland analysis is given in Table 4.17. For each variable in this table, the Pearson Chi-square statistics for the two-way tables Variable \times RABBIT TYPE and Variable \times INJAK are calculated where INJAK is defined as follows:

$$\text{INJAK} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if Injury} = \text{No injury, possible injury, or} \\ & \text{non-incapacitating injury} \\ 1, & \text{if Injury} = \text{Incapacitating injury or fatal} \end{cases}$$

These statistics are given in Table 4.18. Again restraint usage is the only variable with significant χ^2 -values with respect to RABBIT TYPE and INJAK. Thus, it is the first variable to be included in the subsequent analysis.

After having selected Restraint Usage, the procedure is repeated by calculating: $T_1 = \chi^2((\text{Restraint Usage} \times V) \times \text{RABBIT TYPE})$ and $T_2 = \chi^2((\text{Restraint Usage} \times V) \times \text{INJAK})$ for each of the remaining variables. Table 4.19 provides a summary of these statistics for some of the more significant variables.

The variable Ejection has the most significant χ^2 values. However, this variable is not very informative since less than 1 percent of the occupants in the file were ejected. Hence, NBVEH is the second variable selected because it is the next most significant variable. The procedure is terminated at this stage and no other variables are selected because inclusion of additional variable(s) would result in many empty cells in the subsequent contingency table due to relatively low injury frequencies.

4.3.2 Estimation Procedure.

Again to obtain estimates for restraint usage rates, overall serious injury rates, and for the three terms on the right side of Equation (3.2), the GSK method is applied to the multi-dimensional contingency table generated by the cross-classification NBVEH \times RABBIT TYPE \times (Restraint Usage \times INJAK) where each subpopulation (row) is assumed to follow a multinomial distribution (see Table 4.20).

Table 4.17
A list of variables considered as potential controls
(Maryland)

| Characteristics | Variable | Levels | Description of Levels |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------|---|
| Accident | Accident year | 5 | 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979 |
| | Accident type | 12 | Other motor vehicle in transport, parked MV, MV on other roadway, pedestrian, pedacycle, other pedestrian conveyance, animal, railway, train, fixed object, other object, overturned, other non-collision |
| | NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 2 | Single vehicle, multi-vehicle |
| | Road surface condition | 4 | Dry, wet, muddy, snowy/icy |
| Vehicle | Model year | 5 | 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979 |
| | VEHWT0 (Weight of vehicle) | 5 | 0, 1-2000, 2001-3000, 3001-4000, over 4000 |
| | Vehicle damage severity | 4 | Disabling, functional, other vehicle damage, no damage |
| | Damage area | 4 | Front, left side, right side rear |
| | Strike | 2 | Striking, struck |
| Occupant | Sex | 2 | Male, female |
| | Age | 6 | Under 16, 16-20, 21-25, 26-35, 36-55, above 55 |
| | Ejection | 2 | Ejected (full, partial), not ejected |
| | Restraint usage | 2 | Used, not used |

Table 4.18
Pearson Chi-square statistics for (VARIABLE × RABBIT TYPE)
and (VARIABLE × INJAK)
(Maryland)

| Variable | RABBIT TYPE | INJAK | RABBIT TYPE | INJAK |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| | (Excluding Unknown Restraint Usage Cases) | | (Including Unknown Restraint Usage Cases) | |
| Accident year | 27.4 (4)* † 6.8 | 5.1 (4) 0.28 1.3 | 28.4 (4) † 7.1 | 3.5 (4) 0.48 0.9 |
| Accident type | 34.2(11) † 3.1 | 78.1(11) † 7.1 | 37.5(11) † 3.4 | 84.7(11) † 7.7 |
| Number of vehicles | 0.1 (1) 0.93 0.1 | 15.6 (1) † 15.6 | 0.2 (1) 0.90 0.2 | 22.9 (1) † 22.9 |
| Road surface condition | 16.1 (3) † 5.4 | 2.1 (3) 0.54 0.7 | 17.3 (3) † 5.8 | 3.5 (3) 0.32 1.2 |
| Model year | 49.0 (4) † 12.3 | 1.4 (4) 0.85 0.4 | 51.1 (4) † 12.8 | 0.8 (4) 0.94 0.2 |
| Vehicle weight of other car | 0.8 (4) 0.94 0.2 | 18.7 (4) † 4.7 | 1.6 (4) 0.80 0.4 | 20.6 (4) † 5.2 |
| Damage area | 2.5 (3) 0.47 0.8 | 6.5 (3) 0.09 2.2 | 2.6 (3) 0.45 0.9 | 8.5 (3) 0.04 2.8 |
| Sex | 1.2 (1) 0.28 1.2 | 0.1 (1) 0.71 0.1 | 1.4 (1) 0.24 1.4 | 0.0 (1) 0.97 0.0 |
| Age | 21.3 (5) † 4.3 | 7.1 (5) 0.21 1.4 | 21.5 (5) † 4.3 | 6.7 (5) 0.24 1.4 |
| Ejection | 1.3 (1) 0.26 1.3 | 86.1 (1) † 86.1 | 1.8 (1) 0.18 1.8 | 66.1 (1) † 66.1 |
| Strike | 0.5 (1) 0.50 0.5 | 6.6 (1) 0.01 6.6 | 0.0 (1) 0.92 0.0 | 11.3 (1) † 11.3 |
| Vehicle damage severity | 6.2 (3) 0.18 2.1 | 85.2 (3) † 28.4 | 7.2 (3) 0.12 2.4 | 111.2 (3) † 37.1 |
| Restraint usage | 180.0 (1) † 180.0 | 5.9 (1) † 5.9 | N.A. | N.A. |

* $\chi^2 = 27.4$ (d.f. = 4)
 $\chi^2/\text{d.f.} = 6.8$

†p-value < 0.001
N.A. = not applicable

Table 4.19
Pearson Chi-square statistics for (RESTRAINT USAGE \times V) \times RABBIT TYPE
and (RESTRAINT USAGE \times V) \times INJAK
(Maryland)

| Variable | (Restraint Usage \times V) \times RABBIT Type | (Restraint Usage \times V) \times INJAK |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Accident year | 204.4 (9)* 22.7 | 48.4 (9) 5.4 |
| Accident type | 209.0 (22) 9.5 | 124.9 (22) 5.7 |
| NBVEH (number of vehicles) | 180.6 (3) 60.2 | 24.5 (3) 8.2 |
| Road surface condition | 185.2 (7) 26.5 | 11.9 (7) 1.7 |
| Model year | 231.2 (9) 25.7 | 10.6 (9) 1.2 |
| VEHWTO (veh. weight of other vehicle) | 153.2 (9) 17.0 | 35.1 (9) 3.9 |
| Vehicle damage severity | 181.3 (7) 25.9 | 101.4 (7) 14.5 |
| Damage area | 184.8 (7) 26.4 | 13.1 (7) 1.9 |
| Strike | 176.9 (3) 59.0 | 12.3 (3) 4.1 |
| Age | 198.1 (11) 18.0 | 17.6 (11) 1.6 |
| Ejection | 180.7 (3) 60.2 | 100.1 (3) 33.4 |

* $\chi^2 = 204.4$ (d.f. = 9)
 $\chi^2/\text{d.f.} = 22.7$

Table 4-20
NBVEH × RABBIT TYPE × (RESTRAINT USE × INJAK)
(Maryland)

| NBVEH | RABBIT TYPE | Restraint Not Used Uninjured Injured | Restraint Used Uninjured Injured | Margin Total | Stratum Total (W ₀) |
|-------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Manual | 93 11 | 59 2 | 165 | 223 [0.10] |
| | Automatic | 15 1 | 40 2 | 58 | |
| 2+ | Manual | 863 24 | 631 13 | 1531 | 2052 [0.90] |
| | Automatic | 131 5 | 381 4 | 521 | |
| Total | | 1102 41 | 1111 21 | | 2275 |

First a saturated model was fit to the observed injury rates \underline{P} using the linear model $\underline{P} = \underline{X}_S \underline{\beta}$ where

$$\underline{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.563 & 0.067 & 0.358 \\ 0.259 & 0.017 & 0.690 \\ 0.564 & 0.016 & 0.412 \\ 0.251 & 0.010 & 0.731 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \underline{X}_S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \underline{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_3 \\ \beta_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

The first column of \underline{X}_S represents the overall mean injury rate, the next two columns represent the main effects for NBVEH and RABBIT TYPE, and the last column represents the interaction effect for NBVEH × RABBIT TYPE.

A series of models were then successively fitted where the design matrix \underline{X} at each stage was obtained by deleting all columns of the immediately preceding design matrix that correspond to non-significant main effects and/or to the interaction.

The final design matrix \underline{X}_f , the observed and predicted multinomial probabilities, the estimated model coefficients and the goodness-of-fit statistic are all summarized in Figure 4.3.

The χ^2 goodness-of-fit statistic is 1.51 with 2 degrees of freedom and a corresponding p-value of 0.68 indicating an adequate fit of the data.

The model coefficient estimates show that the overall effect of RABBIT TYPE (β_2) is significant which implies that there is significant difference in the (Restraint Usage × INJAK) distributions between the two Rabbit types. The

Figure 4.3
Observed (\hat{p}) and predicted (\hat{p}) multinomial probabilities,
final design matrix X_s , and model coefficients $\hat{\beta}$
(Maryland)

| NBVEH | Rabbit Type | Multinomial Probability | | | | Final Design Matrix X_s | Model Coefficients $\hat{\beta}$ |
|-------|-------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | Restraint Not Used Uninjured $\hat{p}_{i1}(\hat{p}_{i1})$ | Restraint Not Used Injured $\hat{p}_{i2}(\hat{p}_{i2})$ | Restraint Used Uninjured $\hat{p}_{i3}(\hat{p}_{i3})$ | Restraint Used Injured $\hat{p}_{i4}(\hat{p}_{i4})$ | | |
| 1 | M | 0.563 (0.564) | 0.067 (0.067) | 0.358 (0.358) | 0.012* | $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ | $\begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_3 \end{bmatrix}$ |
| | A | 0.259 (0.253) | 0.017 (0.010) | 0.690 (0.729) | 0.034 | | |
| 2+ | M | 0.564 (0.564) | 0.016 (0.016) | 0.412 (0.412) | 0.008 | | |
| | A | 0.251 (0.253) | 0.010 (0.010) | 0.731 (0.729) | 0.008 | | |

*Since each subpopulation is assumed to have a multinomial distribution, the sum across each row is 1. Hence for the purpose of modeling, one of the four proportions can be omitted. In this analysis, the last column of \hat{p} is omitted. Consequently, $\hat{p}_{i4} = 1 - \sum_j \hat{p}_{ij}$.

Figure 4.3 (continued)

| Interpretation of Model Coefficients | Model Coefficients | Coefficient Estimates | Standard Deviations |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Overall Mean Proportions | β_1 | [0.253, 0.010, 0.729] | [0.018, 0.004, 0.018] |
| Main Effects: | | | |
| Rabbit Type (R) | β_2 | [0.311, 0.006 -0.317] | [0.022, 0.005, 0.022] |
| Interaction: | | | |
| NBVEH x R | β_3 | [-0.000, 0.051, -0.055] | [0.041, 0.020, 0.039] |

Test Statistics for $H_0: \beta_i = 0$

| Model Coefficients | χ^2 | d.f. | p-Value |
|--------------------|----------|------|---------|
| β_1 | 68961.7 | 3 | < 0.01 |
| β_2 | 205.4 | 3 | < 0.01 |
| β_3 | 7.7 | 3 | 0.05 |

Goodness of fit Statistic: χ^2 due to error = 1.51 with 2 degrees of freedom and $p = 0.68$

significance of the interaction $NBVEH \times RABBIT\ TYPE (\beta_3)$ indicates that there is an additional difference in the (Restraint Usage \times INJAK) distributions between the two Rabbit types in the stratum defined by ($NBVEH = 1$).

The difference in the (Restraint Usage \times INJAK) distributions between the two Rabbit types is again mainly due to the restraint usage rate differences. The effect of the restraint usage rate differences on the overall serious injury rate reduction is examined below.

Table 4.21
Estimates for restraint usage rates, (A+K)-injury rates, overall injury rate reduction, three components comprising the overall injury rate reduction and effectiveness (Maryland)

| | Estimates (%) (Standard Error) | | Difference (%)* (Manual - Automatic) (Standard Error) | Effectiveness (%) Relative to Manual (Standard Error) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| | Manual | Automatic | | |
| Restraint usage rate | 41.60 (1.20) | 73.71 (1.83) | 32.11 [†] (2.18) | 77.35 [†] (6.74) |
| Injury rate | 2.95 (0.41) | 1.84 (0.56) | 1.11 [†] (0.69) | 37.61 [†] (20.79) |
| Components of Variation in (A+K)-Injury Rate Differences: | | | | |
| Attributed to restraint usage rate differences | | | 0.46 [†] (0.26) | 15.55 [†] (8.66) |
| Attributed to system differences | | | 0.74 (0.55) | 25.21 (17.61) |
| Attributed to sample variation | | | -0.09 (0.44) | -3.15 (14.88) |

*Absolute value of the difference.

†Statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$.

Table 4.21 summarizes the various estimates obtained from the final model. These figures show that the presence of automatic restraint systems again results in almost a doubling of the usage rate and a corresponding decrease in serious injuries by a factor of about one-third. The difference in overall injury serious rates is estimated to be 1.11 percent. The estimates show that the component attributed to restraint usage increase is 0.46 percent, the component attributed to system differences is 0.74 percent, and the component attributed to sample variation is -0.09 percent. The estimate for the first component is statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$, while the estimates for the other two components indicate that they are not significantly different from zero.

The overall effectiveness of the automatic restraint system in reducing serious or fatal injuries is estimated to be 37.61 percent which is statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$. Moreover, the effectiveness of the automatic restraint system attributed to restraint usage increase is estimated to be 15.5 percent which is also statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$.

The estimate for the component of injury rate reduction attributed to system differences is 0.74 percent which is large compared to the estimate for the first component. This is why the overall effectiveness (37.61%) is much larger than the effectiveness attributed to restraint usage increase (15.5%).

The Effect of Deleting Cases with Missing Restraint Usage Information.

Table 4.22 shows that only about 4 percent of the cases have unknown restraint usage information. As this is an important variable in the analysis, the potential effect of their deletion from the preceding analysis will be examined.

First, Table 4.22 shows that the proportion of cases with missing restraint usage information is marginally significantly different between the two types of Rabbit restraint systems.

Table 4.22
RABBIT TYPE \times Restraint Usage information availability
(Maryland)

| Rabbit Type | Known Restraint Usage | Unknown Restraint Usage | Total |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| M | 1696 (86.22%) | 271 (13.78%) | 1967 [75.22%] |
| A | 578 (89.20%) | 70 (10.80%) | 648 [24.78%] |
| Total | 2274 (86.96%) | 341 (13.04%) | 2615 |

$$\chi^2 = 3.8, \text{ d.f.} = 1 \text{ with } p = 0.051$$

Next, Table 4.18 compares the Pearson Chi-square statistics based on the total population to the Pearson Chi-square statistics based on the subpopulation with known restraint usage information. Deletion of cases with unknown belt

usage again does not tend to distort the underlying relationships between these variables and RABBIT TYPE and also INJAK.

Finally, Table 4.23 compares the injury rates between the manual and the automatic restraint systems based on the total population, and Table 4.24 provides an analogous comparison based on the subpopulation with known restraint usage information. These two tables together show that, by deleting the cases

Table 4.23
(RABBIT TYPE \times INJAK) based on total population
(Maryland)

| Total Population | INJAK | | Total |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | 0 | 1 | |
| Manual | 1893 (97.13%) | 56 (2.87%) | 1949 [75.28%] |
| Automatic | 629 (98.28%) | 11 (1.72%) | 640 [24.72%] |
| Total | 2522 (97.41%) | 67 (2.59%) | 2589 |

Table 4.24
(RABBIT TYPE \times INJAK) based on subpopulation
with known restraint usage information
(Maryland)

| Known Restraint Usage | INJAK | | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | 0 | 1 | |
| Manual | 1646 (97.05%) | 50 (2.95%) | 1696 [74.58%] |
| Automatic | 567 (98.10%) | 11 (1.90%) | 578 [25.42%] |
| Total | 2213 (97.32%) | 61 (2.68%) | 2274 |

with unknown restraint usage information, the injury rate for occupants of manual restraint systems increases from 2.87 percent to 2.95 percent, while the injury rate for occupants of automatic restraint systems increases from 1.72 percent to 1.90 percent. The deletion of these cases with unknown restraint usage information decreases the injury rate reduction from 1.15 ($=2.87 - 1.72$) percent to 1.05 ($=2.95 - 1.90$) percent. This suggests that the subsequent effectiveness estimate will be on the conservative side.

With these various observations, one can again reasonably conclude that the overall effect of the deletion of cases with unknown belt usage will be minimal on the resulting estimates.

Analysis of COLORADO Data

Variable Selection

Table 4-25 contains the available list of variables considered as potential controls for Colorado. Again the Chi-square statistics for this association

Table 4.25
A list of variables considered as potential controls
(Colorado)

| Characteristics | Variable | Levels | Description of Levels |
|-----------------|--|--------|---|
| Accident | Accident year | 5 | 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979 |
| | NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 2 | Single vehicle, multi-vehicle |
| | Road surface condition | 3 | Wet, dry, snow/icy |
| Vehicle | Model year | 5 | 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979 |
| | VEHWT0 (Vehicle weight of other vehicle) | 5 | 0, 1-2000, 2001-3000, 3001-4000, Over 4000 |
| | Tow | 2 | Yes, no |
| Occupant | Sex | 2 | Male, female |
| | Age group | 6 | Under 16, 16-20, 21-25, 26-35, 36-55, Over 55 |
| | Ejection | 2 | Ejected, not ejected |
| | Restraint usage | 2 | Used, not used |

with RABBIT TYPE and INJAK are calculated where INJAK is defined as:

$$INJAK = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if Injury = Minor visible injuries, complaint of} \\ & \text{pain with no visible injuries or} \\ & \text{no injuries} \\ 1 & \text{if Injury = Fatality, or carried from the scene} \end{cases}$$

These statistics are presented in Table 4.26. Restraint usage is the only variable with significant χ^2 values with respect to both RABBIT TYPE and INJAK. Thus it is the first variable selected.

After having selected RESTRAINT USAGE, the procedure is repeated and the corresponding statistics are given in Table 4.27. In this case, the variable Ejection has the most significant χ^2 values. However, it is not selected because occupants were not ejected in over 99 percent of the cases. Towing is the next most significant variable followed by NBVEH. Due to the size of the sample and the magnitudes of the χ^2 values for the remaining variables further repetition of the procedure was not warranted. Hence, Tow and NBVEH were the two variables selected at this stage. It is of interest that the variable VEHWTO is also significant here but not as significant as Towing or NBVEH.

Estimation Procedure

To obtain estimates for restraint usage rates, overall serious injury rates, and for the three components in the decomposition of the overall (A+K)-injury rate reduction, the GSK method was applied to the multi-dimensional contingency table generated by the cross-classification Tow \times NBVEH \times RABBIT TYPE \times (Restraint Usage \times INJAK) where each subpopulation (row) is assumed to follow a multinomial distribution (see Table 4.28).

Generally, occupants of towed vehicles and occupants of non-towed vehicles have different injury experiences. In order to have a better grasp of the underlying relationship, a saturated 2-module model was first fit to the observed injury rates via the linear model $\underline{P} = \underline{X}_S \underline{\beta}$ where

$$\underline{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.554 & 0.259 & 0.179 \\ 0.364 & 0.273 & 0.303 \\ 0.618 & 0.150 & 0.208 \\ 0.377 & 0.105 & 0.456 \\ 0.612 & 0.045 & 0.340 \\ 0.738 & 0.008 & 0.246 \\ 0.698 & 0.010 & 0.291 \\ 0.437 & 0.004 & 0.555 \end{bmatrix}, \underline{X}_S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \underline{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_3 \\ \beta_4 \\ \beta_5 \\ \beta_6 \\ \beta_7 \\ \beta_8 \end{bmatrix}$$

Table 4.26
Pearson Chi-square statistics for (VARIABLE × RABBIT TYPE) and (VARIABLE × INJAK)
(Colorado)

| Variable | Rabbit Type | INJAK | Rabbit Type | INJAK |
|--|--|----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | (Excluding unknown Restraint usage cases) | | (Including unknown restraint usage cases) | |
| Accident year | 4.0 (4) 0.41* 1.0 | 20.3 (4) † 5.1 | 3.7 (4) 0.45 0.9 | 16.2 (4) 0.005 4.1 |
| NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 1.0 (1) 0.32 1.0 | 55.5 (1) † 55.5 | 1.5 (10) 0.23 1.5 | 65.4 (1) † 65.4 |
| Road surface condition | 0.2 (2) 0.89 0.1 | 2.4 (2) 0.30 1.2 | 1.0 (2) 0.61 0.5 | 4.6 (2) 0.10 2.3 |
| Model year | 14.7 (4) 0.01 3.7 | 5.4 (4) 0.25 1.4 | 13.9 (4) 0.01 3.5 | 6.9 (4) 0.14 1.8 |
| VEHWT0 (Vehicle weight of other car) | 0.87 (4) 0.93 0.2 | 5.3 (4) 0.26 1.3 | 1.0 (4) 0.91 0.3 | 5.0 (4) 0.28 1.3 |
| Tow | 0.1 (1) 0.77 0.1 | 177.5 (1) † 177.5 | 0.4 (1) 0.52 0.4 | 204.3 (1) † 204.3 |
| Sex | 1.2 (1) 0.28 1.2 | 0.3 (1) 0.60 0.3 | 0.5 (1) 0.49 0.5 | 1.2 (1) 0.28 1.2 |
| Age group | 8.3 (5) 0.14 1.7 | 20.4 (5) † 4.1 | 6.7 (5) 0.25 1.4 | 24.0 (5) † 4.8 |
| Ejection | 0.5 (1) 0.50 0.5 | 141.2 (1) † 141.2 | 0.5 (1) 0.50 0.5 | 141.2 (1) † 141.2 |
| Restraint usage | 74.4 (1) † 74.4 | 20.7 (1) † 20.7 | N.A. | N.A. |

* $\chi^2 = 4.0$ (d.f. = 4) p-value = 0.41
 $\chi^2/\text{d.f.} = 1.0$

† p-value < 0.001
N.A. = not applicable

Table 4.27
Pearson Chi-square statistics for (RESTRAINT USAGE × V) × RABBIT TYPE
and (RESTRAINT USAGE × V) × INJAK
(Colorado)

| Variable (V) | $\left(\begin{matrix} \text{Restraint} \\ \text{Usage} \end{matrix} \times V \right) \times \text{RABBIT TYPE}$ | $\left(\begin{matrix} \text{Restraint} \\ \text{Usage} \end{matrix} \times V \right) \times \text{INJAK}$ |
|--|--|--|
| Accident year | 84.3 (9)* 9.4 | 53.0 (9) 5.9 |
| NBVEH (Number of vehicles) | 76.9 (3) 25.6 | 85.5 (3) 28.5 |
| Road surface condition | 78.6 (5) 15.7 | 23.0 (5) 4.6 |
| Model year | 96.1 (9) 10.7 | 32.4 (9) 3.6 |
| Tow | 78.8 (3) 26.3 | 205.1 (3) 68.4 |
| VEHWT0 (Vehicle weight of other vehicle) | 46.7 (9) 5.2 | 53.7 (9) 6.0 |
| Age | 99.3 (11) 9.0 | 47.8 (11) 4.3 |
| Sex | 84.1 (3) 28.0 | 20.7 (3) 6.9 |
| Ejection | 75.7 (2) 37.9 | 156.0 (2) 78.0 |

* $\chi^2 = 84.3$ (d.f. = 9)
 $\chi^2/\text{d.f.} = 9.4$

Table 4.28

Data for VW Rabbit manual and automatic restraint systems comparison relative to (A+K)-injury characterization

| Tow | NBVEH | Rabbit Type | Restraint Not Used Uninjured | Restraint Not Used Injured | Restraint Used Uninjured | Restraint Used Injured | Margin Total | Total (%) |
|-------|-------|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Yes | 1 | M | 62 | 29 | 20 | 1 | 112 | 145 |
| | | A | 12 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 33 | (0.09) |
| | 2+ | M | 202 | 49 | 68 | 8 | 327 | 441 |
| | | A | 43 | 12 | 52 | 7 | 114 | (0.28) |
| No | 1 | M | 27 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 44 | 56 |
| | | A | 9 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 12 | (0.04) |
| | 2+ | M | 505 | 7 | 211 | 1 | 724 | 962 |
| | | A | 104 | 1 | 132 | 1 | 238 | (0.60) |
| Total | | | 964 | 109 | 511 | 20 | | 1604 |

The design matrix X_s has been partitioned according to the tow vs. non-tow subpopulation. The first column of X_s represents the overall mean injury rate for the towed subpopulation, and the next three columns represent the main effects of NBVEH and RABBIT TYPE, and the interaction NBVEH \times RABBIT TYPE for this subpopulation. The last four columns represent the corresponding effects for the non-towed subpopulation.

A series of models were then successively fitted. The final design matrix X_f , the observed and predicted multinomial probabilities, the estimated model coefficients, and the goodness-of-fit statistic are summarized in Figure 4.4.

The χ^2 goodness-of-fit statistic is 1.53 with 3 degrees of freedom and a corresponding p-value of 0.67 indicating an adequate fit.

The model parameter estimates show that the main effect NBVEH is a significant confounding factor in both the towed (β_2) and the non-towed (β_5) subpopulations (see Figure 4.4). The overall effect of RABBIT TYPE (β_3, β_6) is also significant in the two subpopulations. In the non-towed subpopulation, there is a significant difference in the (Restraint Usage \times INJAK) distributions between the two Rabbit types in the case of single-vehicle accidents (β_7). Finally, the statistic $\beta_1 - \beta_4$ shows that the overall mean injury rates between the towed and the non-towed subpopulations are significantly different suggesting that the partition of the design matrix into modules defined by Tow is appropriate.

Figure 4.4
Observed (P) and predicted (\hat{P}) multinomial probabilities,
final design matrix X_s , and model coefficients β
(Colorado)

| Tow | NBVEH | Rabbit Type | Multinomial Probability | | | | Final Design Matrix X_s | Model Coefficients β |
|-----|-------|-------------|--|---|--|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Restraint Uninjured $P_{i1}(\hat{P}_{i1})$ | Restraint Not Used Injured $P_{i2}(\hat{P}_{i2})$ | Restraint Uninjured $P_{i3}(\hat{P}_{i3})$ | Restraint Used Injured $P_{i4}(\hat{P}_{i4})$ | | |
| Yes | 1 | M | 0.554 (0.560) | 0.259 (0.268) | 0.179 (0.163) | 0.009* | 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 | β_1 |
| | | A | 0.364 (0.337) | 0.273 (0.232) | 0.303 (0.380) | 0.061 | 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 | β_2 |
| | 2+ | M | 0.618 (0.614) | 0.150 (0.148) | 0.208 (0.214) | 0.024 | 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 | β_3 |
| | | A | 0.377 (0.392) | 0.105 (0.112) | 0.456 (0.431) | 0.061 | 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 | β_4 |
| No | 1 | M | 0.612 (0.612) | 0.045 (0.045) | 0.340 (0.340) | 0.002 | 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 | β_5 |
| | | A | 0.738 (0.738) | 0.008 (0.008) | 0.246 (0.246) | 0.008 | 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 | β_6 |
| | 2+ | M | 0.698 (0.698) | 0.010 (0.010) | 0.291 (0.291) | 0.001 | 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 | β_7 |
| | | A | 0.437 (0.437) | 0.004 (0.004) | 0.555 (0.555) | 0.004 | 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 | β_7 |

* Since each subpopulation is assumed to have a multinomial distribution, the sum across each row is 1. Hence for the purpose of modeling, one of the four proportions can be omitted. In this analysis, the last column of \hat{P} is omitted. Consequently, $P_{i4} = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^3 \hat{P}_{ij}$

Figure 4.4 (Cont.)

| Module | Interpretation of Model Coefficients | Model Coefficients | Coefficient Estimates | Standard Deviations |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tow=Yes | Overall Mean | β_1 | [0.392, 0.112, 0.431] | [0.041, 0.027, 0.041] |
| | Main Effects NBVEH (N_y) | β_2 | [-0.055, 0.120, -0.050] | [0.047, 0.040, 0.039] |
| | Rabbit Type (R_y) | β_3 | [0.222, 0.036, -0.217] | [0.046, 0.032, 0.044] |
| Tow=No | Overall Mean Proportion | β_4 | [0.437, 0.004, 0.555] | [0.032, 0.004, 0.032] |
| | Main Effects NBVEH (N_n) | β_5 | [0.301, 0.004, -0.309] | [0.130, 0.026, 0.127] |
| | Rabbit Type (R_n) | β_6 | [0.261, 0.005, -0.263] | [0.036, 0.006, 0.036] |
| | Interaction $N_n \times R_n$ | β_7 | [-0.386, 0.032, 0.357] | [0.150, 0.041, 0.147] |

Test Statistics for $H_0: \beta_i = 0$

| Model Coefficients | χ^2 | d.f. | p-Value |
|---------------------|----------|------|---------|
| β_1 | 2196.9 | 3 | < 0.01 |
| β_2 | 10.4 | 3 | 0.02 |
| β_3 | 33.8 | 3 | < 0.01 |
| β_4 | 56406.0 | 3 | < 0.01 |
| β_5 | 5.9 | 3 | 0.12 |
| β_6 | 53.8 | 3 | < 0.01 |
| β_7 | 6.9 | 3 | 0.08 |
| $\beta_1 - \beta_4$ | 27.0 | 2 | < 0.01 |

Goodness-of-fit Statistic: χ^2 due to error = 1.53 with 3 degrees of freedom and $p = 0.67$

The differences in the (Restraint Usage × INJAK) distributions between the two Rabbit Types are again mainly attributable to restraint usage rate differences. Estimates for restraint usage rates, overall serious injury rates, the three components on the right side of Equation (3.2), and the corresponding differences and effectiveness are summarized in Table 4.29.

Table 4.29
Estimates for restraint usage rates, (A+K)-injury rates, overall injury rate reduction, three components comprising the overall injury rate reduction and effectiveness
(Colorado)

| | Estimates (%) (Standard Error) | | Difference (%) * (Manual - Automatic) (Standard Error) | Effectiveness (%) (Relative to Manual) (Standard Error) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| | Manual | Automatic | | |
| Restraint Usage Rate | 29.37 (2.24) | 46.13 (3.97) | 16.76 [†] (4.55) | 57.07 [†] (18.00) |
| Injury Rate | 5.07 (0.98) | 4.12 (1.17) | 0.95 (1.47) | 18.78 (27.02) |
| Components of Variation in (A+K) - Injury Rate Differences: | | | | |
| Attributed to Restraint Usage Rate Differences | | | 0.70 [†] (0.36) | 13.87 [†] (7.81) |
| Attributed to System Differences | | | -0.57 (0.84) | -11.31 (16.79) |
| Attributed to Sample Variation | | | 0.82 (1.30) | 16.22 (23.63) |

*Absolute value of the difference

†Statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$.

These figures show that the presence of automatic restraint systems again increases the usage rate by about one and a half times, and decreases the injury rate by a factor of about one-fifth. The difference in the overall serious injury rate is estimated to be 0.95 percent. The estimates show that the component of the overall injury rate reduction attributed to restraint usage rate differences is 0.70 percent, the component attributed to system differences is -0.57 percent, and the component attributed to sample variation is 0.82 percent. The estimate for the belt usage component is statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$, while the estimates for the other two components are not statistically significantly different from zero.

The estimate of 0.82 percent for the third component is relatively large in magnitude when compared to the estimate of 0.70 percent for the first component. This suggests that the variation in the two samples of RABBITS that are not accounted for by controlling for Tow and NBVEH remains sizable.

The overall effectiveness of the automatic restraint system in reducing serious and fatal injuries is estimated to be 18.78 percent. The effectiveness of the automatic restraint system attributed to an increase in restraint usage is estimated to be 13.9%, which is statistically significant at $\alpha = 0.10$.

The Effect of Deleting Cases with Missing Restraint Usage Information

Table 4.30 shows that about 10% of the cases have unknown restraint usage information. The effect of the deletion of these cases is examined below.

First, Table 4.30 shows that the proportion of cases with missing restraint usage information is not significantly different between the two types of restraint systems.

Table 4.30
Availability of RABBIT TYPE \times Restraint Usage information
(Colorado)

| Rabbit Type | Known Restraint Usage | Unknown Restraint Usage | Total |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Manual | 1394 (89.70%) | 160 (10.30%) | 1554 [74.89%] |
| Automatic | 462 (88.60%) | 59 (11.32%) | 521 [25.11%] |
| Total | 1856 (89.45%) | 219 (10.55) | 2075 |

$$\chi^2 = 0.4, \text{ d.f. } = 1, \text{ p } = 0.51$$

Next, Table 4.26 compares the Pearson Chi-square statistics based on the total population to the Pearson Chi-square statistics based on the subpopulation with known restraint usage information. Their deletion again does not tend to distort the underlying relationships between these variables and RABBIT TYPE and also INJAK.

Finally, Table 4.31 compares the (A+K)-injury rates between the manual and the automatic restraint systems based on the total population, and Table 4.32 provides an analogous comparison based on the subpopulation with known restraint usage information. These two tables together show that by deleting these cases

Table 4.31

(RABBIT TYPE × INJAK) based on total population
Colorado

| Total Population | INJAK | | Total |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | 0 | 1 | |
| Manual | 1326 (93.51%) | 123 (8.49%) | 1449 [75.31%] |
| Automatic | 441 (92.84%) | 34 (7.16%) | 475 [24.69%] |
| Total | 1767 (91.84%) | 157 (8.16%) | 1924 * |

*151 unknown INJAK cases

Table 4.32

(RABBIT TYPE × INJAK) based on subpopulation
with known restraint usage information
(Colorado)

| Known Restraint Usage | INJAK | | Total |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | 0 | 1 | |
| Manual | 1199 (92.02%) | 104 (7.98%) | 1303 [75.54%] |
| Automatic | 390 (92.42%) | 32 (7.58%) | 422 [24.46%] |
| Total | 1589 (92.12%) | 136 (7.88%) | 1725 |

with unknown restraint usage information, the injury rate for occupants of manual restraint systems decreases from 8.49 percent to 7.98 percent, while the injury rate for occupants of automatic restraint systems increases from 7.16 percent to 7.58 percent. This suggests that the subsequent effectiveness estimate will be on the conservative side because the deletion of these cases with unknown restraint usage information decreases the observed overall serious injury rate reduction from 1.33 (=8.49% - 7.16) percent to 0.40 (=7.98% - 7.58) percent.

With these observations, one can again reasonably conclude that the overall effect of the deletion of unknown belt usage cases will be minimal.

Analysis of ALABAMA Data

The primary reason limiting the usefulness of Alabama accident data is that occupant information such as age, sex, restraint usage, and injury severity is available only for the injured occupants. This results in the following problems.

1. Over 90 percent of the occupants are not injured, and hence have missing occupant information. Since one can ascertain the presence of a driver with additional driver information, one may reasonably assume that a driver with missing injury information is uninjured. On the other hand, one cannot ascertain the presence or absence of a right front occupant in each vehicle. Consequently, one must restrict attention to the subpopulation of drivers.
2. For the overwhelming majority of the cases, even when the driver is injured, the restraint usage information is missing. Thus, the statistical methodology applied to the preceding four states is not applicable here. Table 4.33 shows the extent to which the variable restraint usage is missing.

Table 4.33
(RABBIT TYPE × RESTRAINT USAGE) for driver only
(Alabama)

| Rabbit Type | Restraint Usage | | | Total |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | Belted | Unbelted | Unknown/ Not Stated | |
| Manual | 1 (0.13%) | 47 (6.12%) | 720 (93.75%) | 768 [79.09%] |
| Automatic | 3 (1.48%) | 5 (2.46%) | 195 (96.06%) | 203 [20.91%] |
| Total | 4 (0.41%) | 52 (5.36%) | 915 (94.23%) | 971 |

For the following, if a driver's injury information is missing, he is assumed to be uninjured and hence INJAK is defined as follows:

$$INJAK = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if injury} = B, C, \text{ or not stated} \\ 1 & \text{if injury} = A \text{ or } K \end{cases}$$

Table 4.34 contrasts the driver (A+K)-injury distribution of manual restraint systems to that of the automatic restraint system. The observed

Table 4.34
(RABBIT TYPE \times INJAK) for drivers only
(Alabama)

| Rabbit Type | INJAK | | Total |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | Uninjured | Injured | |
| Manual | 679 (92.76%) | 53 (7.24%) | 732 [78.79%] |
| Automatic | 193 (97.97%) | 4 (2.03%) | 197 [21.21%] |
| Total | 872 (93.9%) | 57 (6.1%) | 929* |

*42 cases with missing injury information.

injury rate reduction is 5.21 percent which is somewhat higher than observed for the preceding four states although the quality of the belt usage data does raise some questions about Alabama's accident data.

Analysis of SOUTH CAROLINA Data

The same reason that limits the usefulness of the Alabama accident data also limits the usefulness of the South Carolina accident data. Table 4.35 illustrates the problem concerning missing restraint usage information. In fact, it appears that South Carolina and Alabama use very similar statewide accident report forms.

Table 4.36 compares the driver (A+K)-injury distribution for manual restraint systems to that of the automatic restraint systems. Here the observed injury rate reduction is 2.82 percent which is more in line with those observed for New York, North Carolina, Maryland, and Colorado.

Table 4.35
(RABBIT TYPE × RESTRAINT USAGE) for drivers only
(South Carolina)

| Rabbit Type | Restraint Usage | | | Total |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | Belted | Unbelted | Unknown/ Not Stated | |
| Manual | 1 (0.53%) | 13 (6.84%) | 176 (92.63%) | 190 [78.51%] |
| Automatic | 1 (1.92%) | 2 (3.85%) | 49 (94.23%) | 52 [21.07%] |
| Total | 2 (0.83%) | 15 (6.20%) | 225 (92.98%) | 242 |

Table 4.36
(RABBIT TYPE × INJAK) for drivers only
(South Carolina)

| Rabbit Type | INJAK | | Total |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | Uninjured | Injured | |
| Manual | 181 (92.26%) | 9 (4.74%) | 190 [78.51%] |
| Automatic | 51 (98.08%) | 1 (1.92%) | 52 [21.49%] |
| Total | 232 (95.87%) | 10 (4.13%) | 242 |

CHAPTER 5 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

Summary

This study attempts to examine the serious (A+K)-injury reducing potential of automatic shoulder belt/knee bolster restraint systems by comparing the (A+K)-injury experiences of the occupants of VW Rabbits equipped with the manual (or active) 3-point lap and shoulder belt restraint systems with the (A+K)-injury experiences of occupants of Rabbits equipped with the automatic (or passive) shoulder belt/knee bolster restraint systems.

Of primary interest is the net effect on the serious injury rates of front seat occupants of automatic belt Rabbits as compared to those in the conventional belt Rabbits. Of further interest is not only the usage rates in the two types of vehicles but also the relative contribution to the injury rate reduction attributable to belt usage versus belt system differences. Finally, of considerable interest is the adequacy of statewide accident data for carrying out studies such as this.

The study data consists of VW Rabbit accident data for the period 1975-1979 from New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Colorado, Alabama and South Carolina. As has been seen, the primary analyses are based on data from New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado due to data limitations (quantity and quality) with Alabama and South Carolina.

No attempt has been made to combine data across states due to slightly different definitions of variables (e.g., definition of A-injury), differing reporting thresholds among the states, and occasionally differing distributions of the data among the states (e.g., the "drivable" variable). However, by using the (A+K)-injury criterion, there are reasonable sample sizes within each of the states (ranging from 1924 occupants in Colorado to 5046 in New York) and the police determination of A or K injuries should be quite reliable.

Once the data files were set up, the analysis procedures were essentially the same for each state. First, since belt usage is such an important variable and it was missing in from 10 to 15 percent of the cases for the four primary states, an analysis was carried out to show that these missing belt usage cases occur essentially at random; i.e., that they do not introduce any serious biases in the data.

Secondly, in all accident data analyses there are certain variables that interact with the variables of interest -- here, RABBIT TYPE and INJAX (serious injury). As a result, to the extent allowable by the data, the confounding effect of these variables should be removed. This was done by identifying these variables (i.e., variable screening) and then smoothing the data using categorical data models (i.e., weighted least squares procedures via the GENCAT computer program).

Finally, as there is not only interest in the overall (A+K)-injury reduction but also the effect of various components such as usage rate differences and restraint system differences, the overall injury rate difference was expressed in terms of its components: usage rate differences, belt system effectiveness differences, and the residual referred to as sample variation. Estimates of these effects were then derived for New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado using the GENCAT program.

Although the unknown belt usage rates are 15.5 percent, 9.5 percent, 13.0 percent and 10.5 percent for New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado, respectively, analysis of these cases indicated no systematic biases that would invalidate the results. Indeed, the unknown belt cases appear to arise essentially randomly in each of the states with respect to the other variables of interest.

In each of the states, among the most important confounding variables to control for were restraint usage and number of vehicles involved (single vs. multi). This consistency increased the confidence in the screening procedure utilized.

Restraint usage rates by system type and state are presented in Table 5.1 along with effectiveness estimates. As mentioned in Chapter 2, although the usage rates differ considerably among the states, the ratio of the rates between belt systems (.506, .386, .564, .637 for NY, NC, MD, CO, respectively) remains reasonably constant with, as expected, a considerable increase in usage with the automatic restraint systems.

Overall (A+K)-injury rates by system type and state are given in Table 5.2 along with (A+K)-injury rate reduction effectiveness estimates.

Again, the serious injury rates differ among states due to a combination of the factors mentioned in Chapter 2 -- crash severity differences, reporting threshold differences, reporting errors, and definitional differences in A-injuries. Nonetheless the ratio (I_M/I_A) is quite constant across states

Table 5.1
Restraint usage rates by system type and state

| State | Restraint Usage Rate | | |
|-------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| | Manual (s.e.) R_M | Automatic (s.e.) R_A | Ratio R_M/R_A |
| NY | 28.96 (1.67) | 57.25 (1.84) | 0.506 |
| NC | 16.63 (1.10) | 43.08 (2.66) | 0.386 |
| MD | 41.60 (1.20) | 73.70 (1.83) | 0.564 |
| CO | 29.37 (2.24) | 46.13 (3.97) | 0.637 |

Table 5.2
Overall (A+K)-injury rates and effectiveness estimates by system type and state

| State | Overall (A+K) Injury Rate | | | Effectiveness |
|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---|
| | Manual (s.e.) I_M | Automatic (s.e.) I_A | Ratio I_M/I_A | $\frac{I_M - I_A}{I_M} \times 100$ (s.e.) |
| NY | 6.33 (0.41) | 5.24 (0.72) | 1.2 | 17.27 (12.30) |
| NC | 5.21 (0.65) | 3.83 (1.05) | 1.4 | 26.38 (22.06) |
| MD | 2.95 (0.41) | 1.84 (0.56) | 1.6 | 37.61 (20.79) |
| CO | 5.07 (0.98) | 4.12 (1.17) | 1.2 | 18.78 (27.03) |

(1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.2, respectively), suggesting that occupants of automatic belt Rabbits are 20-30 percent less likely to experience serious injuries in a crash.

Table 5.3 provides the estimates (s.e.) of the various components of the serious injury rate reduction; i.e., the components due to restraint usage rate differences, system differences, and sample variation (or residual). To the extent that the serious injury rates are significantly reduced (depending upon the α -level selected) for the automatic Rabbit, the consistent and significant component leading to this reduction is the increased belt usage level for the automatic Rabbit. It would seem that the two systems, when used, are equally effective in reducing serious injuries. It is also apparent from the estimates of sample variation that the most important factors have been accounted for in this analysis.

Table 5.3

Estimates of the components of the overall serious injury rate reduction

| | Estimate (s.e.) | 95% Confidence Interval | Percentage Relative to Overall (A+K)-Injury for Manual Rabbit (s.e.) |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| <u>Overall (A+K)-Injury Rate Reduction ($I_M - I_A$)</u> | | | |
| NY | 1.09% (0.81%) | (-0.50%, 2.68%) | 17.27% (12.30%) |
| NC | 1.38% (1.23%) | (-1.17%, 3.63%) | 26.38% (22.06%) |
| MD | 1.11% (0.69%) | (-0.24%, 2.46%) | 37.61% (20.79%) |
| CO | 0.95% (1.47%) | (-0.97%, 2.87%) | 18.78% (27.03%) |
| <u>Component Attributed to Restraint Usage Rate Differences</u> | | | |
| NY | 1.22% (0.23%)* | (0.77%, 1.67%) | 19.27% (3.34%)* |
| NC | 0.85% (0.45%)** | (-0.02%, 1.72%) | 16.33% (8.40%)** |
| MD | 0.46% (0.26%)** | (-0.05%, 0.97%) | 15.55% (8.66%)** |
| CO | 0.70% (0.36%)** | (-0.01%, 1.41%) | 13.87% (7.81%)** |
| <u>Component Attributed to System Differences</u> | | | |
| NY | -0.22% (0.56%) | (-1.32%, 0.88%) | -3.48% (8.85%) |
| NC | -0.35% (0.87%) | (-2.07%, 1.36%) | -6.81% (17.12%) |
| MD | 0.74% (0.55%) | (-0.34%, 1.82%) | 25.21% (17.61%) |
| CO | -0.57% (0.84%) | (-2.20%, 1.06%) | -11.31% (16.79%) |
| <u>Component Attributed to Sample Variation (Residual)</u> | | | |
| NY | 0.09% (0.58%) | (-1.05%, 1.23%) | 1.48% (7.92%) |
| NC | 0.88% (0.90%) | (-0.89%, 2.64%) | 16.87% (16.62%) |
| MD | -0.09% (0.44%) | (-0.96%, 0.77%) | -3.15% (14.88%) |
| CO | 0.82% (1.30%) | (-1.73%, 2.65%) | 16.22% (23.63%) |

* Significant at $\alpha = 0.05$

** Significant at $\alpha = 0.10$

Thus, from this real-world accident data from New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado, occupants in automatic belt Rabbits experienced some 10 to 30 percent fewer (A+K)-injuries than their counterparts in Rabbits with conventional 3-point belt systems. The overriding factor for this reduction was an increase (at least two-fold) in the belt usage rates in the automatic belt Rabbits.

Discussion

Not unexpectedly, there are a variety of pros and cons in using state accident data to address questions such as the serious injury reduction of automatic belt systems in VW Rabbits. In spite of many limitations and qualifications, it currently represents the only possible accident data base with which to even begin to answer the question. As will be seen, there are many reasons for not combining such data across states. Nevertheless, the analysis within multiple states with reasonable data quality does allow for an examination of the consistency of results between states and increases the confidence placed in the results of the analysis. Because of a variety of differences between states it is to be expected that there will be variability in the estimates derived. The extent and acceptability of this variation for the particular analysis being carried out should then define the answer to the question of the usefulness of state accident data in addressing the question. For the present study, it is felt that the analysis of New York, North Carolina, Maryland and Colorado data provide most useful and otherwise unavailable input into answering the questions posed.

The fact that the multi-state data base represents the only reasonable file available for analysis is clear. Outside data collected by the federal government, there is no other existing accident data to consider. And with respect to the former, candidate files derive from the following programs: FARS (Fatal Accident Reporting System), MDAI (Multi-Disciplinary Accident Investigation), RSEP (Restraint System Effectiveness Program), NCSS (National Crash Severity Study), and NASS (National Accident Sampling System).

FARS, a census of detailed information on motor vehicle fatalities in the United States, is seriously lacking in sample size (see Table 5.4 for fatality counts for the six states used in this study). Hedlund (1980) does use the FARS data for 1975-1979 to compare the fatality rates (F_A and F_M) per million

Table 5.4
Occupant fatalities* by Rabbit type and state

| State | Belt Type | Fatality K (%) | Non-Fatally Injured + Uninjured K | Total |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|--|-------|
| New York | Manual | 22 (0.55%) | 3993 | 4015 |
| | Automatic | 6 (0.58%) | 1025 | 1031 |
| North Carolina | Manual | 12 (0.76%) | 1568 | 1580 |
| | Automatic | 1 (0.21%) | 466 | 467 |
| Maryland | Manual | 3 (0.18%) | 1946 | 1949 |
| | Automatic | 1 (0.17%) | 639 | 640 |
| Colorado | Manual | 5 (0.35%) | 1444 | 1449 |
| | Automatic | 4 (0.84%) | 471 | 475 |
| Alabama | Manual | 2 (0.29%) | 730 | 732 |
| | Automatic | 0 (0.00%) | 197 | 197 |
| South Carolina | Manual | 1 (0.53%) | 189 | 190 |
| | Automatic | 0 (0.00%) | 52 | 52 |

*Without regard to belt usage information.

vehicle months for the front seat occupants of automatic vs. manual Rabbits. He concludes that $F_M > F_A$ with a best estimate being

$$F = \frac{F_M}{F_A} = 1.2$$

or an effectiveness in fatality reduction of approximately 17 percent. He also concludes that there appear to be problems with the 1975-1977 FARS data and, with a total (all years) of but 69 fatalities in automatic Rabbits, recommends further investigation as additional data becomes available. Although the quality of the information is superior, the lack of cases seriously limits any analysis.

MDAI has for the past number of years focused on air bag-equipped car crashes and on school bus accidents. Thus, even if they were representative and sufficiently numerous, the target group is not appropriate for this study.

RSEP and NCSS, prototypes for NASS, lack data quantity (each around 10,000 accidents) and/or timeliness -- RSEP used only 1973-75 model cars. The ongoing

NASS program likewise is inadequate with respect to data quantity and, commencing in 1978, does not have accident data for as broad a period as is available through the network of state accident data.

Thus, if the questions of interest are to be investigated, it is possible only through examining state accident data. In the remainder of this chapter, many of the problems encountered in using this data are addressed. These include both interstate data problems as well as intrastate problems. Examples of the former include variations in

- (i) Reporting thresholds
- (ii) Definitions of the accident variables
- (iii) Degree and nature of computerization
- (iv) Quality including missing data rates, police reporting errors.

Examples of intrastate data problems include

- (i) Periodic changes in the accident report forms during the study period
- (ii) Variability in the quality of the data from item to item (e.g., restraint usage vs. driver age) with respect to missing data and police classification errors.

In comparing results across states, differences in reporting thresholds can yield apparently inconsistent data. For example, in New York State, police report only on injury-producing accidents -- motorists report property damage only accidents. Thus, any analysis based on police reports from New York will have disproportionately more serious injuries -- essentially by definition. Everything else being equal, this should lead to a somewhat lower estimate of the effectiveness of the automatic belt system (Campbell and Reinfurt, 1979). The generally higher serious injury rates (see Table 2.8) for New York are consistent with the higher reporting threshold, as is the generally lower overall effectiveness estimate (17.3%). These results, which are consistent with the hypothesis, suggest caution in combining New York data with that of any other state.

No two statewide accident report forms in the United States are identical. Thus a data element which is available in one state (say, location of injury) may not even be available in other states. And even if it were, coding level definitions often differ on such generally critical variables as injury (e.g., "A" injury), belt use (e.g., not used vs. unknown), vehicle damage severity (e.g., TAD severity vs. minor, moderate, severe), impact site (e.g., initial point of contact: front vs. right front, center front, left front), accident

type (e.g., car-car vs. two vehicle), etc. Obviously such incompatibilities not only reduce opportunities for combining data but also make it more difficult to compare results between states. It is advantageous in this application that comparisons are carried out basically within each of the states.

As mentioned earlier, only New York State among the six states has information on location of injury. One of the questions to be addressed in this study was whether the knee bolster might induce injury to the knee or lower leg of occupants in the automatic Rabbits. Table 5.5 suggests two problems even with the New York State injury by location data. First, knee is not identified -- only upper vs. lower leg. Second, over 60 percent of the cases (automatic and manual) have missing injury location data. The most that can be said is that, if the missing cases occurred at random, the automatic Rabbit occupants did not have disproportionately more "knee" injuries as defined by lower leg and/or upper leg.

Clearly state accident data is wanting in the important area of injury information. Relatively few states have more detailed information than that provided by the KABCO scale. And even here there are some definitional ambiguities that accompany that scale as has been mentioned previously.

There is considerable variability between states in the information from the accident report form that is computerized. Of utmost importance to this study was the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number). In fact the six states were selected on the basis of having readily-available computerized VIN information. Properly recording the VIN by the investigating officer and then correctly entering it on computer is a difficult process. Previous experience with North Carolina VIN's indicates that approximately 15 percent of accident-involved passenger cars failed the VIN edit check for the R. L. Polk VINA, a VIN-decoding computer program. Perhaps a similar failure rate has occurred in the data processing involved in this study. Provided it is non-systematic, its main effect is to decrease sample size.

This study placed an additional requirement on the VIN information, namely that the production number, which was passed against the VW file to obtain system type, was valid. The results of this secondary screening are shown in Table 5.6. Excepting South Carolina the failure rates appear tolerable. Nevertheless, systematic biases could cause problems with the other five states.

Table 5.5
Rabbit type by injury location

| Rabbit Frequency (Row%) | Injury Location | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------|
| | Unknown | Head | Face | Eye | Neck | Chest | Back |
| Manual | 2457 (39.60) | 617 (11.87) | 185 (0.45) | 7 (9.11) | 142 (5.20) | 81 (6.48) | 101 |
| Automatic | 680 (29.34) | 103 (13.39) | 47 (0.28) | 1 (11.11) | 39 (10.26) | 36 (7.12) | 25 |
| Total | 3137 (37.72) | 720 (12.15) | 232 (0.42) | 8 (9.48) | 181 (6.13) | 117 (6.60) | 126 |

| Rabbit Frequency (Row%) | Injury Location | | | | | | Total |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | Upper Arm | Lower Arm | Abdomen | Upper Leg | Lower Leg | Entire Body | |
| Manual | 82 (5.26) | 86 (5.52) | 17 (1.09) | 35 (2.25) | 153 (9.82) | 52 (3.34) | 1558 [81.61] |
| Automatic | 26 (7.41) | 24 (6.84) | 9 (2.56) | 9 (2.56) | 23 (6.55) | 9 (2.56) | 351 [18.39] |
| Total | 108 (5.66) | 110 (5.76) | 26 (1.36) | 44 (2.30) | 176 (9.22) | 61 (3.20) | 1909 |

Table 5.6
Rabbit belt type distribution by state

| State | Belt Type | | | Total |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| | Manual | Automatic | Unknown | |
| New York | 2821 (72.4) | 722 (18.5) | 355 (9.1) | 3898 |
| North Carolina | 1180 (64.1) | 347 (18.8) | 314 (17.1) | 1841 |
| Maryland | 1603 (64.8) | 525 (21.2) | 346 (14.0) | 2474 |
| Colorado | 1434 (69.6) | 491 (23.8) | 136 (6.6) | 2061 |
| Alabama | 768 (65.4) | 203 (17.3) | 204 (17.4) | 1175 |
| South Carolina | 190 (36.0) | 52 (9.9) | 285 (54.1) | 527 |

The most important aspect of the data is quality, as judged by rates of missing data for certain key variables and by consistency in the data. An example of the latter would be observed usage rate differences within a state yielding estimates of effectiveness in reducing serious injury that are within the range of expectation from previous research. Characteristics of the missing data for a number of key variables (e.g., restraint usage, injury severity, occupant age, sex and seating position, accident year, model year, number of vehicles involved) have been addressed in Chapter 2, both in terms of magnitude and in terms of differences between belt systems within states and also across states.

As it has been determined that the data should not be combined across states but rather that parallel analyses should be run in four of the six states (New York, North Carolina, Maryland, and Colorado), the most important question becomes similarity of missing data rates by belt systems within states. Here generally the data for most of the variables appears acceptable. Of primary concern is the belt usage variable which is such an integral portion of the analysis.

The unknown belt usage rates are 15.6 percent, 9.6 percent, 13.0 percent, 10.6 percent, 94.2 percent and 93.0 percent for New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Colorado, Alabama, and South Carolina, respectively. Clearly Alabama's and South Carolina's rates suggest that their data are not very useful. For the other four states, the main effect of missing belt usage data is to reduce the study file size. Analyses in Chapter 4 of the effect of the missing data on serious injury rates by belt system for each of the states suggest that the missing belt usage cases are distributed similarly across the other variables within each belt type, thus not biasing the estimates.

At the next level, how reliable is the belt usage data? Various studies (Chi, 1980b) have addressed the question of the degree and nature of belt usage misclassification errors in police data. A priori one would not expect automatic belt usage rates to vary from 43 percent to 74 percent. In fact, from population-at-risk studies carried out by Phillips and Goodman (1980), one might expect somewhat higher rates within a much narrower range. Likewise, a priori one would not expect a range of 16 percent to nearly 42 percent in the usage rates for manual (or conventional) belts. In fact, even accounting for the fact that VW Rabbits are foreign, subcompact passenger cars, one might expect generally lower rates again with a narrower between-state range. Are the observed rates consistent with other "known" facts about seat belt effectiveness?

One approach to investigating this question is suggested by Hedlund (1980). It assumes that the two systems are equally effective ($e_M = e_A = e$) in reducing serious injury, which seems reasonable from the analyses described in Chapter 4. Then, based on the observed belt usage rates (u_M, u_A), the method calculates the common effectiveness rate (given the systems are in use) for each of the states. This estimate is contrasted with the generally accepted range of 0.5 to 0.6 for reducing serious injuries.

More specifically, let

$$\begin{aligned}
 R &= \frac{(A+K)\text{-injury rate for manual belts}}{(A+K)\text{-injury rate for automatic belts}} \\
 &= \frac{1 - (\text{proportion of serious injuries prevented by M})}{1 - (\text{proportion of serious injuries prevented by A})} \\
 &= \frac{1 - \text{effectiveness of M}}{1 - \text{effectiveness of A}} \\
 &= \frac{1 - (\text{effectiveness of M given the belt was used})(\text{usage rate of M})}{1 - (\text{effectiveness of A given the sysem was used})(\text{usage rate of A})} \\
 &= \frac{1 - e_M u_M}{1 - e_A u_A}
 \end{aligned}$$

Assuming $e_M = e_A = e$, the common effectiveness estimate $\hat{e} = \frac{R-1}{Ru_A - u_M}$ is

determined for each state using the observed u_M , u_A , and R from Tables 2 and 2.8, is presented in Table 5.7. The magnitudes of \hat{e} raise some questions

Table 5.7
Examination of the consistency of the belt usage data

| State | u_M | u_A | R | \hat{e} |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| New York | 0.290 | 0.572 | 1.294 | 0.65 |
| North Carolina | 0.163 | 0.426 | 1.385 | 0.90 |
| Maryland | 0.416 | 0.739 | 1.672 | 0.82 |
| Colorado | 0.254 | 0.468 | 1.186 | 0.62 |

regarding the quality of the belt usage information and/or about the assumption that the belt systems are equally effective.

One additional problem leading to potentially inconsistent within-state accident data relates to changes in either the report form document or the reporting threshold during the study period. Although there were no reporting threshold changes from 1975 through 1979, there were changes in the report forms (e.g., North Carolina in 1979; Maryland in 1977). An example of a problem arising from such a change was the increase in the proportion of A-injuries in North Carolina in 1979. Although there was no change in definition, the description on the document differed as follows:

1975-1978: A-Incapacitating

1979: A-Incapacitating (Injury obviously serious enough to prevent carrying on normal activities for at least 24 hours; e.g., massive loss of blood, broken bone)

Other changes can and do lead to data incompatibilities and inconsistencies. For this data set, changes were relatively minor within states.

In summary, the usefulness of state accident data for analysis tasks such as was involved in this study has at least two sides. If one requires rather precise effectiveness estimates rather than good "ballpark" estimates, it is

probably inadequate. Certainly if there is alternative data such as NASS, this would be preferable. Without considerable records improvement at all levels (form design, data collection and processing), existing data does not appear to be able to be combined across states.

On the other hand, given adequate within-state sample size, reasonably consistent estimates across a number of states combined with careful attention to the quality of the data used does give one confidence in results. This has also recently been shown in a study of utility vehicle accidents in North Carolina and in Maryland (Reinfurt, et al, 1981). Certainly for the investment made, it would seem that the results (in both cases) should be most useful

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APPENDIX

Accident Report forms from NEW YORK, NORTH CAROLINA
MARYLAND, COLORADO, ALABAMA, and SOUTH CAROLINA

Alabama

Alabama

alabama

| CODES | SEATING | | SEAT BELTS | | EJECTED | INJURY | | FIRST AID BY | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--------|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">1 2 3</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">4 5 6</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7 8 9</div> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> M - Motorcycle B - Bicyclist O - Other U - Unknown P - Pedestrian </div> </div> | | LAP BELT ONLY N - None Installed F - Fastened U - Unfastened D - Not Reported | | LAP & SHOULDER BELT E - Not Used G - Lap Belt Only Used M - Both Belts Used L - Not Reported | | Y - Yes P - Part ally N - No U - Unknown | K - Killed A - Visible signs of injury or bleeding wound or distorted member or had to be carried from scene B - Other visible injury at various elevations swelling, lacerating, etc. C - No visible injury but complaint of pain or momentary unconsciousness | | P - Police A - Ambulance D - Doctor O - Other U - Unknown N - None | | | | |
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| VICTIMS | NAME | | ADDRESS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 TAKEN TO | | TAKEN BY | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NARRATIVE & DIAGRAM | DIRECTION OF TRAVEL - VEHICLE 1 - N E S W VEHICLE 2 - N E S W MILES N E S W TO | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED (REFER TO VEHICLES BY NUMBER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ROADWAY & ENVIRONMENT | LIGHT (Circle One) 1 DAYLIGHT 2 DAWN 3 DUSK 4 DARKNESS 5 DARKNESS RD LIGHTED | | WEATHER (Circle One) 1 - CLEAR 2 - CLOUDY 3 RAINING 4 - FOG 5 - SNOWING 6 SLEETING 8 MAILING | | LOCALE (Circle One) 1 OPEN COUNTRY 2 RESIDENTIAL 3 SHOP OR BUSINESS 4 - MFG or INDUSTRIAL 5 - SCHOOL or PLAY D 8 OTHER | | DEFECTS (Circle One or More) 1 2 - SHOULDERS LOW 2 2 SHOULDERS HIGH 3 3 HOLES BUMPS ETC 4 4 - LOOSE MATERIAL ON SURFACES 5 5 - ROAD UNDER CONST 6 6 NONE 7 7 OTHER | | CONSTRUCTION (Circle One For Each Vehicle) 1 2 1 1 - ASPHALT 2 2 - CONCRETE 3 3 BRICK 4 4 - DIRT 5 5 OTHER | | CONDITION (Circle One For Each Veh) 1 2 1 1 - DRY 2 2 - WET 3 3 SNOWY ICY 4 4 MUDDY 5 5 - HAZARDOUS MATERIAL | | VISION OBSCURED (Circle One For Each Veh) 1 2 01 01 - NOT OBSCURED 02 02 - RAIN SNOW ICE, ETC. ON WINDSHIELD 03 03 - TREES CROPS BUSHES ETC 04 04 BUILDINGS 05 05 - OBSTRUCTION 06 06 SIGNBOARD 07 07 - HILLCREST 08 08 - PARKED VEHICLES 09 09 - MOVING VEHICLES 10 10 - BLINDED BY HEADLIGHTS 11 11 - BLINDED BY SUNLIGHT 12 12 - OTHER 13 13 - UNKNOWN | |
| | CHARACTER (Circle One For Each Veh) 1 1 Straight - Level 2 2 Straight Down Grade 3 3 Straight Up Grade 4 4 Straight Hillcrest 5 5 - Curve Level 6 6 Curve Down Grade 7 7 Curve Up Grade 8 8 Curve Hillcrest Vehicle Traveling Same Way Yes No (Circle One) | | TRAFFIC CONTROL (Circle One For Each Vehicle) 1 1 - STOP SIGN 2 2 STOP & GO SIGNAL 3 3 YIELD SIGN 4 OFFICER OR FLAGMAN 5 5 RR CROSSING GATES 6 6 RR FLASHING LIGHTS 7 7 NONE 8 8 OTHER Yes Yes No No } FUNCTIONING | | ROADWAY LANES (Circle One For Each Vehicle) 1 2 - ONE LANE 2 2 - TWO LANES 3 3 - THREE LANES 4 4 FOUR LANES 5 5 - FIVE LANES 6 6 SIX LANES OR MORE 7 7 UNPAVED (Any Width) 8 8 ALLEY Yes Yes No No } ONE WAY STREET | | ROADWAY DIVIDED BY (Circle One For Each Vehicle) 1 2 1 1 - CONCRETE 2 2 - ROUGH SURFACE 3 3 EARTH 4 4 - PAINTED MEDIAN BARRIER 1 1 - CONCRETE 2 2 - METAL GUARDRAIL 3 3 FENCE 4 4 - OTHER Yes Yes No No } MEDIAN | | | | | | | |
| | SUMMONS NUMBER | | NAME OF PERSON CHARGED | | CONTRIBUTING CIRCUMSTANCE(S) | | | | | | | | | |
| | SUMMONS NUMBER | | NAME OF PERSON CHARGED | | CONTRIBUTING CIRCUMSTANCE(S) | | | | | | | | | |
| | POLICE AGENCY NOTIFIED | | POLICE ARRIVED | | AMBULANCE ARRIVED | | TRAFFIC FLOW RESTORED | | NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER | | | | | |
| | NAME OF INVESTIGATING OFFICER | | BADGE NUMBER | | POLICE AGENCY | | | | | | | | | |
| | NAME OF OTHER OFFICER AT SCENE | | BADGE NUMBER(S) | | POLICE AGENCY | | | | | | | | | |
| | THE DATA ON THIS REPORT REFLECTS MY BEST KNOWLEDGE OF FACT AND BELIEF COVERING THE ACCIDENT BUT NO WARRANTY IS MADE AS TO THE FACTUAL ACCURACY THEREOF | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATING OFFICER _____ DATE _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Original size of document - 8 1/2 x 14

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| STATE OF MARYLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 REPORT NO 2122350 | | 2 FORM OF | | 3 COUNTY | | 4 TIME NOTIFIED (MILITARY) | | 5 TIME ARRIVED (MILITARY) | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 ACCIDENT DATE MO DAY YR | | 7 TIME (MILITARY) | | 8 DAY OF WEEK | | 9 REPORT TYPE 1 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT 2 NON TRAFFIC ACCIDENT | | 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 ACCIDENT SEVERITY 1 Damaged 2 Possible Injury 3 Non-Incorporating | | 12 FIRST HARMFUL EVENT 01 Other Motor Vehicle 02 Pedestrian 03 Other Vehicle 04 Pedestrian 05 Pedestrian 06 Pedestrian 07 Pedestrian 08 Pedestrian 09 Pedestrian 10 Pedestrian 11 Pedestrian 12 Pedestrian 13 Pedestrian 14 Pedestrian 15 Pedestrian 16 Pedestrian 17 Pedestrian 18 Pedestrian 19 Pedestrian 20 Pedestrian 21 Pedestrian 22 Pedestrian 23 Pedestrian 24 Pedestrian 25 Pedestrian 26 Pedestrian 27 Pedestrian 28 Pedestrian 29 Pedestrian 30 Pedestrian 31 Pedestrian 32 Pedestrian 33 Pedestrian 34 Pedestrian 35 Pedestrian 36 Pedestrian 37 Pedestrian 38 Pedestrian 39 Pedestrian 40 Pedestrian 41 Pedestrian 42 Pedestrian 43 Pedestrian 44 Pedestrian 45 Pedestrian 46 Pedestrian 47 Pedestrian 48 Pedestrian 49 Pedestrian 50 Pedestrian 51 Pedestrian 52 Pedestrian 53 Pedestrian 54 Pedestrian 55 Pedestrian 56 Pedestrian 57 Pedestrian 58 Pedestrian 59 Pedestrian 60 Pedestrian 61 Pedestrian 62 Pedestrian 63 Pedestrian 64 Pedestrian 65 Pedestrian 66 Pedestrian 67 Pedestrian 68 Pedestrian 69 Pedestrian 70 Pedestrian 71 Pedestrian 72 Pedestrian 73 Pedestrian 74 Pedestrian 75 Pedestrian 76 Pedestrian 77 Pedestrian 78 Pedestrian 79 Pedestrian 80 Pedestrian 81 Pedestrian 82 Pedestrian 83 Pedestrian 84 Pedestrian 85 Pedestrian 86 Pedestrian 87 Pedestrian 88 Pedestrian 89 Pedestrian 90 Pedestrian 91 Pedestrian 92 Pedestrian 93 Pedestrian 94 Pedestrian 95 Pedestrian 96 Pedestrian 97 Pedestrian 98 Pedestrian 99 Pedestrian 100 Pedestrian | | 13 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS | | 14 | | 15 | | 16 | | | | | | | |
| 17 FIXED OBJECT STRUCK 01 Building 02 Building 03 Building 04 Building 05 Building 06 Building 07 Building 08 Building 09 Building 10 Building 11 Building 12 Building 13 Building 14 Building 15 Building 16 Building 17 Building 18 Building 19 Building 20 Building 21 Building 22 Building 23 Building 24 Building 25 Building 26 Building 27 Building 28 Building 29 Building 30 Building 31 Building 32 Building 33 Building 34 Building 35 Building 36 Building 37 Building 38 Building 39 Building 40 Building 41 Building 42 Building 43 Building 44 Building 45 Building 46 Building 47 Building 48 Building 49 Building 50 Building 51 Building 52 Building 53 Building 54 Building 55 Building 56 Building 57 Building 58 Building 59 Building 60 Building 61 Building 62 Building 63 Building 64 Building 65 Building 66 Building 67 Building 68 Building 69 Building 70 Building 71 Building 72 Building 73 Building 74 Building 75 Building 76 Building 77 Building 78 Building 79 Building 80 Building 81 Building 82 Building 83 Building 84 Building 85 Building 86 Building 87 Building 88 Building 89 Building 90 Building 91 Building 92 Building 93 Building 94 Building 95 Building 96 Building 97 Building 98 Building 99 Building 100 Building | | 18 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN VEHICLE OBJECT | | 19 OWNER NAME | | 20 DAMAGE SEVERITY 1 No Damage 2 Slight 3 Moderate 4 Severe 5 Total Loss | | 21 COLLISION TYPE 01 Front-End 02 Rear-End 03 Side-Impact 04 Front-Quarter 05 Rear-Quarter 06 Front-Quarter 07 Rear-Quarter 08 Front-Quarter 09 Rear-Quarter 10 Front-Quarter 11 Rear-Quarter 12 Front-Quarter 13 Rear-Quarter 14 Front-Quarter 15 Rear-Quarter 16 Front-Quarter 17 Rear-Quarter 18 Front-Quarter 19 Rear-Quarter 20 Front-Quarter 21 Rear-Quarter 22 Front-Quarter 23 Rear-Quarter 24 Front-Quarter 25 Rear-Quarter 26 Front-Quarter 27 Rear-Quarter 28 Front-Quarter 29 Rear-Quarter 30 Front-Quarter 31 Rear-Quarter 32 Front-Quarter 33 Rear-Quarter 34 Front-Quarter 35 Rear-Quarter 36 Front-Quarter 37 Rear-Quarter 38 Front-Quarter 39 Rear-Quarter 40 Front-Quarter 41 Rear-Quarter 42 Front-Quarter 43 Rear-Quarter 44 Front-Quarter 45 Rear-Quarter 46 Front-Quarter 47 Rear-Quarter 48 Front-Quarter 49 Rear-Quarter 50 Front-Quarter 51 Rear-Quarter 52 Front-Quarter 53 Rear-Quarter 54 Front-Quarter 55 Rear-Quarter 56 Front-Quarter 57 Rear-Quarter 58 Front-Quarter 59 Rear-Quarter 60 Front-Quarter 61 Rear-Quarter 62 Front-Quarter 63 Rear-Quarter 64 Front-Quarter 65 Rear-Quarter 66 Front-Quarter 67 Rear-Quarter 68 Front-Quarter 69 Rear-Quarter 70 Front-Quarter 71 Rear-Quarter 72 Front-Quarter 73 Rear-Quarter 74 Front-Quarter 75 Rear-Quarter 76 Front-Quarter 77 Rear-Quarter 78 Front-Quarter 79 Rear-Quarter 80 Front-Quarter 81 Rear-Quarter 82 Front-Quarter 83 Rear-Quarter 84 Front-Quarter 85 Rear-Quarter 86 Front-Quarter 87 Rear-Quarter 88 Front-Quarter 89 Rear-Quarter 90 Front-Quarter 91 Rear-Quarter 92 Front-Quarter 93 Rear-Quarter 94 Front-Quarter 95 Rear-Quarter 96 Front-Quarter 97 Rear-Quarter 98 Front-Quarter 99 Rear-Quarter 100 Front-Quarter | | 22 | | 23 | | 24 | | 25 | |
| 26 ACCIDENT OCCURRED ON ROAD NAME | | 27 DISTANCE | | 28 REFERENCED ROAD NAME | | 29 CITY ACCIDENT OCCURRED IN OR INDICATE RURAL | | 30 MUNICIPAL CODE | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 TYPE | | 32 ROUTE NO | | 33 SUFFIX | | 34 LOG MILE REFERENCE ON C1 AT C5 | | 35 RAMP MOVEMENT | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 DIRECTION OF VEHICLES | | 37 | | 38 | | 39 | | 40 | | | | | | | | | |
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| FRONT | | H- POINT OF IMPACT VEH 1 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> VEH 2 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Under carriage 11 Other | | AREAS DAMAGED VEH 1 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> VEH 2 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Other | | VEHICLE CONDITION VEH 1 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> VEH 2 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Under carriage 11 Other | | DRIVER CONDITION VEH 1 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> VEH 2 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Under carriage 11 Other | | | | | | | |
| 11 ILLUMINATION 1 On 2 Off 3 Dim 4 Dark 5 Unknown | | 2 WEA HER 1 Clear 2 Cloudy 3 Foggy 4 Snowy 5 Rainy 6 Other | | 3 SURFACE TYPE 1 Concrete 2 Asphalt 3 Gravel 4 Dirt 5 Other | | 4 ROADWAY SURFACE 1 Wet 2 Dry 3 Snow 4 Ice 5 Mud 6 Other | | 5 ROAD CONDITION 1 No Defect 2 Shoulder 3 No Defect 4 Foreign Object 5 Loose Surface Material 6 Obstruction 7 View Obstructed 8 Other | | 6 ROAD CHARACTER 1 Straight & Level 2 Straight & Grade 3 Straight & Level 4 Curve & Level 5 Curve & Grade 6 Curve & H 7 On Bridge 8 Other | | 7 SPEED LIMIT 1 Unknown 2 25 MPH 3 30 MPH 4 35 MPH 5 40 MPH 6 45 MPH 7 50 MPH 8 55 MPH | | | |
| 1 PED NO 1 Person 2 Pedestrian | | 2 PED INDICATOR 1 Pedestrian 2 Pedestrian | | 3 PED NAME 1 Pedestrian 2 Pedestrian | | 4 PED BIRTHDATE 1 Pedestrian 2 Pedestrian | | 5 PED INJURY 1 Pedestrian 2 Pedestrian | | 6 PED SEX 1 Male 2 Female | | 7 ADDRESS-NO STREET CITY STATE & ZIP 1 Pedestrian 2 Pedestrian | | 8 PHONE NO 1 Pedestrian 2 Pedestrian | |
| 9 PED MANEUVER 01 Cross Street 02 Cross Street 03 Walk on Road 04 Walk on Road | | 05 Ped Condition 01 Normal 02 Normal 03 Normal 04 Normal | | 10 PED CONDITION 1 Normal 2 Normal 3 Normal 4 Normal | | 11 PED VISIBILITY 1 Light Clothing 2 Light Clothing 3 Light Clothing 4 Light Clothing | | 12 PED LOCATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT 1 Shoulder 2 Shoulder 3 Shoulder 4 Shoulder | | 13 PED LOCATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT 1 Shoulder 2 Shoulder 3 Shoulder 4 Shoulder | | 14 PED LOCATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT 1 Shoulder 2 Shoulder 3 Shoulder 4 Shoulder | | 15 PED LOCATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT 1 Shoulder 2 Shoulder 3 Shoulder 4 Shoulder | |
| 16 BICYCLE MAKE WHEEL SIZE & OTHER DESCRIPTION 1 Bicyclist 2 Bicyclist 3 Bicyclist 4 Bicyclist | | 17 BICYCLE MAKE WHEEL SIZE & OTHER DESCRIPTION 1 Bicyclist 2 Bicyclist 3 Bicyclist 4 Bicyclist | | 18 BICYCLE MAKE WHEEL SIZE & OTHER DESCRIPTION 1 Bicyclist 2 Bicyclist 3 Bicyclist 4 Bicyclist | | 19 BICYCLE MAKE WHEEL SIZE & OTHER DESCRIPTION 1 Bicyclist 2 Bicyclist 3 Bicyclist 4 Bicyclist | | 20 BICYCLE MAKE WHEEL SIZE & OTHER DESCRIPTION 1 Bicyclist 2 Bicyclist 3 Bicyclist 4 Bicyclist | | 21 BICYCLE MAKE WHEEL SIZE & OTHER DESCRIPTION 1 Bicyclist 2 Bicyclist 3 Bicyclist 4 Bicyclist | | 22 BICYCLE MAKE WHEEL SIZE & OTHER DESCRIPTION 1 Bicyclist 2 Bicyclist 3 Bicyclist 4 Bicyclist | | 23 BICYCLE MAKE WHEEL SIZE & OTHER DESCRIPTION 1 Bicyclist 2 Bicyclist 3 Bicyclist 4 Bicyclist | |
| 24 FIRST AID ADMINISTERED BY 1 Person 2 Person 3 Person 4 Person | | 25 EMS REPORT NO 1 EMS 2 EMS 3 EMS 4 EMS | | 26 EMS REPORT NO 1 EMS 2 EMS 3 EMS 4 EMS | | 27 INJURED TAKEN BY 1 Person 2 Person 3 Person 4 Person | | 28 INJURED TAKEN BY 1 Person 2 Person 3 Person 4 Person | | 29 INJURED TAKEN BY 1 Person 2 Person 3 Person 4 Person | | 30 INJURED TAKEN BY 1 Person 2 Person 3 Person 4 Person | | 31 INJURED TAKEN BY 1 Person 2 Person 3 Person 4 Person | |
| 32 UNIT 1 Unit 2 Unit 3 Unit 4 Unit | | 33 CITATION NO 1 Citation 2 Citation 3 Citation 4 Citation | | 34 CHARGE 1 Charge 2 Charge 3 Charge 4 Charge | | 35 CITATION NO 1 Citation 2 Citation 3 Citation 4 Citation | | 36 CHARGE 1 Charge 2 Charge 3 Charge 4 Charge | | 37 CITATION NO 1 Citation 2 Citation 3 Citation 4 Citation | | 38 CHARGE 1 Charge 2 Charge 3 Charge 4 Charge | | 39 CITATION NO 1 Citation 2 Citation 3 Citation 4 Citation | |
| 40 PHOTO TAKEN 1 YES 2 NO | | 41 INVEST AT SCENE 1 YES 2 NO | | 42 INVEST INCOMPLETE 1 YES 2 NO | | 43 ALCOHOL TEST 1 YES 2 NO | | 44 TEST RESULTS 1 YES 2 NO | | 45 TEST RESULTS 1 YES 2 NO | | 46 TEST RESULTS 1 YES 2 NO | | 47 TEST RESULTS 1 YES 2 NO | |
| 48 WITNESS NAME 1 1 Witness 2 Witness 3 Witness 4 Witness | | 49 WITNESS NAME 2 1 Witness 2 Witness 3 Witness 4 Witness | | 50 WITNESS NAME 3 1 Witness 2 Witness 3 Witness 4 Witness | | 51 WITNESS NAME 4 1 Witness 2 Witness 3 Witness 4 Witness | | 52 WITNESS NAME 5 1 Witness 2 Witness 3 Witness 4 Witness | | 53 WITNESS NAME 6 1 Witness 2 Witness 3 Witness 4 Witness | | 54 WITNESS NAME 7 1 Witness 2 Witness 3 Witness 4 Witness | | 55 WITNESS NAME 8 1 Witness 2 Witness 3 Witness 4 Witness | |
| 56 DESCRIPTION 1 Description 2 Description 3 Description 4 Description | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 57 DIAGRAM 1 Diagram 2 Diagram 3 Diagram 4 Diagram | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 58 VEHICLE TYPE 01 Automobile 02 Station Wagon 03 Light Duty Truck 04 Medium Duty Truck 05 Heavy Duty Truck 06 Motorcycle 07 Motor Vehicle 08 Motor Vehicle 09 Motor Vehicle 10 Motor Vehicle 11 Motor Vehicle 12 Motor Vehicle 13 Motor Vehicle 14 Motor Vehicle 15 Motor Vehicle 16 Motor Vehicle 17 Motor Vehicle 18 Motor Vehicle 19 Motor Vehicle 20 Motor Vehicle 21 Motor Vehicle 22 Motor Vehicle 23 Motor Vehicle 24 Motor Vehicle 25 Motor Vehicle 26 Motor Vehicle 27 Motor Vehicle 28 Motor Vehicle 29 Motor Vehicle 30 Motor Vehicle 31 Motor Vehicle 32 Motor Vehicle 33 Motor Vehicle 34 Motor Vehicle 35 Motor Vehicle 36 Motor Vehicle 37 Motor Vehicle 38 Motor Vehicle 39 Motor Vehicle 40 Motor Vehicle 41 Motor Vehicle 42 Motor Vehicle 43 Motor Vehicle 44 Motor Vehicle 45 Motor Vehicle 46 Motor Vehicle 47 Motor Vehicle 48 Motor Vehicle 49 Motor Vehicle 50 Motor Vehicle 51 Motor Vehicle 52 Motor Vehicle 53 Motor Vehicle 54 Motor Vehicle 55 Motor Vehicle 56 Motor Vehicle 57 Motor Vehicle 58 Motor Vehicle 59 Motor Vehicle 60 Motor Vehicle 61 Motor Vehicle 62 Motor Vehicle 63 Motor Vehicle 64 Motor Vehicle 65 Motor Vehicle 66 Motor Vehicle 67 Motor Vehicle 68 Motor Vehicle 69 Motor Vehicle 70 Motor Vehicle 71 Motor Vehicle 72 Motor Vehicle 73 Motor Vehicle 74 Motor Vehicle 75 Motor Vehicle 76 Motor Vehicle 77 Motor Vehicle 78 Motor Vehicle 79 Motor Vehicle 80 Motor Vehicle 81 Motor Vehicle 82 Motor Vehicle 83 Motor Vehicle 84 Motor Vehicle 85 Motor Vehicle 86 Motor Vehicle 87 Motor Vehicle 88 Motor Vehicle 89 Motor Vehicle 90 Motor Vehicle 91 Motor Vehicle 92 Motor Vehicle 93 Motor Vehicle 94 Motor Vehicle 95 Motor Vehicle 96 Motor Vehicle 97 Motor Vehicle 98 Motor Vehicle 99 Motor Vehicle 100 Motor Vehicle | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

MV 104A (9/75) COVER SHEET - POLICE ACCIDENT REPORT (to be used with the MV 104A and MV 104AN)

Place this sheet over the front of the accident report so that the numbered arrows line up with the boxes of the same number along the edges of the report. This will explain the meaning of the numbers written in the boxes.

new york

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| PEDESTRIAN LOCATION 1 Pedestrian at Intersection 2 Pedestrian Not at Intersection | | APPARENT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS HUMAN 1 Alcohol Intoxication 2 Backing Unsafely 3 Driver Inattentive (Mind not on Road) 4 Driver Inattentive (Mind not on Road) 5 Driver Inattentive (Mind not on Road) 6 Driver Inattentive (Mind not on Road) 7 Failure to Yield Right of Way 8 Failing to Stop 9 Following Too Closely 10 Illness 11 Lost Consciousness 12 Passenger Distraction 13 Passing or Lane Usage Improper 14 Pedestrian's Error/Confusion 15 Physical Disability 16 Prescription Medication 17 Traffic Control Device Used 18 Turning Improperly 19 Unsafe Speed 20 Other Human | | VEHICLE 41 Accelerator Defective 42 Brakes Defective 43 Headlights Defective 44 Other Lighting Defective 45 Overloaded Vehicle 46 Steering Failure 47 Tire Failure/Inadequate 48 Windshield Defective 49 Windshield Inadequate 50 Other Vehicle ENVIRONMENTAL 61 Animal's Action 62 Glare 63 Lane Marking Improper/Inadequate 64 Obstruction/Debris 65 Pavement Defective 66 Pavement Slippery 67 Shoulders Defective/Improper 68 Traffic Control Device Improper/Non-Working 69 View Obstructed/Limited 70 Other Environmental | |
| PEDESTRIAN ACTION 1 Crossing With Signal 2 Crossing Against Signal 3 Crossing No Signal Marked Crosswalk 4 Crossing No Signal or Crosswalk 5 Walking Along Highway With Traffic 6 Walking Along Highway Against Traffic 7 Emerging from Front of/Behind Parked Vehicle 8 Going To/From Stopped School Bus 9 Getting On/Off Vehicle Other Than School Bus 10 Pushing/Walking On Car 11 Working in Roadway 12 Playing in Roadway 13 Other Action in Roadway 14 Not in Roadway (Indicate) | | TRAFFIC CONTROL 1 None 2 Traffic Signal 3 Stop Sign 4 Flashing Light 5 Yield Sign 6 Officer/Flagman/Guard 7 No Passing Zone 8 RR Crossing Sign 9 RR Crossing Flashing Light 10 RR Crossing Gates 11 Stopped School Bus 12 Red Light Flashing 13 Other | | DIRECTION OF TRAVEL | |
| LIGHT CONDITIONS 1 Daylight 2 Dawn 3 Dusk 4 Dark Road Lighted 5 Dark Road Unlighted | | ROADWAY CHARACTER 1 Straight and Level 2 Straight and Grade 3 Straight at Hillcrest 4 Curve and Level 5 Curve and Grade 6 Curve at Hillcrest | | ROADWAY SURFACE CONDITION 1 Dry 2 Wet 3 Muddy 4 Snow/Ice 5 Slush 6 Other | |
| WEATHER 1 Clear 2 Cloudy 3 Rain 4 Snow 5 Sleet/Hail/Freezing Rain 6 Fog/Smoke 7 Other | | LOCATION OF MOST SEVERE PHYSICAL COMPLAINT 1 Head 2 Face 3 Eye 4 Neck 5 Chest 6 Back 7 Shoulder Upper Arm 8 Elbow Lower Arm Hand 9 Abdomen - Pelvis 10 Hip Upper Leg 11 Knee Lower Leg-Foot 12 Entire Body | | PRE-ACCIDENT VEHICLE ACTION 1 Going Straight Ahead 2 Making Right Turn 3 Making Left Turn 4 Making U Turn 5 Starting from Parking 6 Starting in Traffic 7 Slowing or Stopping 8 Stopped in Traffic 9 Entering Parked Position 10 Parked 11 Avoiding Object in Roadway 12 Changing Lanes 13 Overtaking 14 Merging 15 Backing 16 Other | |
| WHICH VEHICLE OCCUPIED 1. Vehicle No. 1 B. Bicycleist D. Other 2. Vehicle No. 2 P. Pedestrian | | TYPE OF PHYSICAL COMPLAINT 1 Amputation 2 Concussion 3 Internal 4 Minor Bleeding 5 Severe Bleeding 6 Minor Burn 7 Moderate Burn 8 Severe Burn 9 Fracture - Dislocation 10 Contusion - Bruise 11 Abrasion 12 Complaint of Pain 13 None - Was Life | | LOCATION OF FIRST EVENT 1 On Roadway 2 Off Roadway | |
| POSITION IN/VEHICLE 1. Driver 2-7. Passengers 8. Riding/Moving On Outside | | SAFETY EQUIPMENT USED 1. No Restraint Used 2. Lap Belt 3. Harness 4. Lap Belt and Harness 5. Child Restraint 6. Other | | TYPE OF ACCIDENT COLLISION WITH 1. Other Motor Vehicle 2. Pedestrian 3. Bicycleist 4. Animal 5. Railroad Train 6. Other Object (Not Fixed) COLLISION WITH FIXED OBJECT 11. Light Support/Utility Pole 12. Guide Rail 13. Crash Cushion 14. Sign Post 15. Tree 16. Building/Wall 17. Curbing 18. Fence 19. Bridge Structure 20. Culvert/Hood Wall 21. Median/Barrier 22. Snow Embankment 23. Earth Embankment/Rock Cut/Quench 24. Fire Hydrant 25. Other Fixed Object NON-COLLISION 31. Overturned 32. Fire/Explosion 33. Submersion 34. Ran Off Roadway Only 35. Other | |
| EJECTION FROM VEHICLE 1. Not Ejected 2. Partially Ejected 3. Ejected | | VICTIM'S PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL STATUS 1. Apparent Death 2. Unconscious 3. Semiconscious 4. Incoherent 5. Shock 6. Conscious | | COVER SHEET | |
| AGE 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 | | INJURED TAKEN 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 | | COVER SHEET | |

Original size of document - 8 1/2 x 11

Original size of document — 8 1/2 x 14

Original size of document 8 1/2 x 14

SOUTH CAROLINA UNIFORM TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORT

(FOR INVESTIGATING OFFICERS)

SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
COLUMBIA
Form TR 310 Rev. 3-72

MAIL REPORTS TO STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT COLUMBIA S C 29202

Sheet _____ of _____ Sheet(s)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--|---|---------|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
| TOTAL NO VEHICLES | COLLISION INVOLVED (CIRCLE ONE OR MORE) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 - SINGLE MOTOR VEHICLE | | 4 - PEDESTRIAN | | 7 - TWO OR MORE MOTOR VEHICLES | | 8 - FIXED OBJECT | | | | | |
| 2 - OVERTURNED IN ROAD | | 5 - BICYCLE | | 8 - RAN OFF ROAD & OVERTURNED | | 9 - IN ROADWAY OR | | | | | | |
| 3 - RAN OFF ROAD | | 6 - MOTORCYCLE | | 9 - OTHER | | 10 - FROM PAVEMENT EDGE | | | | | | |
| LOC & TIME | DATE | | COUNTY | | DAY OF WEEK | | TIME | | ON | | | |
| | S M T W T F S | | A M P M | | 1 - INTERSTATE 4 - SECONDARY | | ROUTE OR ROAD NUMBER A 105 + 1 1000 1 100 | | MILE POST | | | |
| AT | | INTERSECTION OF ROUTE OR ROAD NUMBER 1A WITH 1B (If Any) | | IF NOT AT INTERSECTION | | 1 - FEET 2 - MILES | | NESW OF | | ROUTE OR ROAD NUMBER A 105 + 1 1000 1 100 | | |
| IN | | CITY OR TOWN | | CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY LOCATION (Circle One) | | 1 - MAIN ROAD 3 - MAIN ROAD AT 4 - ENTRANCE RAMP | | NESW | | 1 - BOUND LANE 2 - SIDE | | |
| IF OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS | | MILES | | NESW OF | | CITY OR TOWN | | | | | | |
| DRIVER #1 VEHICLE | DRIVER'S FULL NAME | | STREET OR R/F D | | CITY AND STATE | | ZIP | | DATE OF BIRTH | | SEX | |
| | DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER | | STATE | | TYPE | | 1 - AUTO 3 - MOTORCYCLE 5 - BEGINNER | | LICENSE RESTRICTION | | RESTRICTION COMPLIED WITH | |
| | OCCUPATION | | MEMBER OF ARMED FORCES | | DRIVER CONDITION | | 1 - NO APPARENT DEFECTS 3 - ILL 5 - BODY DEFECT | | 2 - APPARENTLY ASLEEP 4 - FATIGUED 6 - UNKNOWN | | | |
| | HAD BEEN DRINKING OR USING DRUGS | | Y - YES N - NO U - UNKNOWN | | TYPE TEST GIVEN | | TEST RESULTS | | REFUSED TEST | | MOVING VIOLATION(S) INDICATED | |
| | SOBRIETY | | Y - YES N - NO U - UNKNOWN | | 1 - POS 2 - NEG | | Y - YES N - NO | | | | | |
| | MAKE & IDENTIFICATION (SERIAL NO) | | BODY | | YEAR | | INSPECTION | | 1 - CURRENT 3 - NONE | | LICENSE TAG NUMBER | |
| | OWNER'S NAME | | STREET OR R/F D | | CITY AND STATE | | ZIP | | SPEED LIMIT | | ESTIMATED SPEED | |
| | TYPE | | 01 - AUTO 03 - STA WAGON 05 - TR TRACTOR 07 - FARM MACH 09 - SCHOOL BUS 11 - M CYCLE Safety Equip Used | | Y - Yes N - No | | | | | | | |
| | SPECIAL USE | | 01 - NONE 03 - MILITARY 05 - AMBULANCE 07 - POLICE 09 - GOVERNMENT 11 - DRIVER TRAINING | | | | | | | | | |
| | ATTACHMENT | | 1 - NONE 3 - SEMI TRAILER 5 - FARM TRAILER 7 - CAMPER TRAILER 9 - PETROLEUM TANKER | | | | | | | | | |
| DRIVER #2 OR PEDESTRIAN | DRIVER'S OR PEDESTRIAN'S NAME | | STREET OR R/F D | | CITY AND STATE | | ZIP | | DATE OF BIRTH | | SEX | |
| | DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER | | STATE | | TYPE | | 1 - AUTO 3 - MOTORCYCLE 5 - BEGINNER | | LICENSE RESTRICTION | | RESTRICTION COMPLIED WITH | |
| | OCCUPATION | | MEMBER OF ARMED FORCES | | DRIVER OR PED CONDITION | | 1 - NO APPARENT DEFECTS 3 - ILL 5 - BODY DEFECT | | 2 - APPARENTLY ASLEEP 4 - FATIGUED 6 - UNKNOWN | | | |
| | HAD BEEN DRINKING OR USING DRUGS | | Y - YES N - NO U - UNKNOWN | | TYPE TEST GIVEN | | TEST RESULTS | | REFUSED TEST | | MOVING VIOLATION(S) INDICATED | |
| | SOBRIETY | | Y - YES N - NO U - UNKNOWN | | 1 - POS 2 - NEG | | Y - YES N - NO | | | | | |
| | MAKE & IDENTIFICATION (SERIAL NO) | | BODY | | YEAR | | INSPECTION | | 1 - CURRENT 3 - NONE | | LICENSE TAG NUMBER | |
| | OWNER'S NAME | | STREET OR R/F D | | CITY AND STATE | | ZIP | | SPEED LIMIT | | ESTIMATED SPEED | |
| | TYPE | | 01 - AUTO 03 - STA WAGON 05 - TR TRACTOR 07 - FARM MACH 09 - SCHOOL BUS 11 - M CYCLE Safety Equip Used | | Y - Yes N - No | | | | | | | |
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| | ATTACHMENT | | 1 - NONE 3 - SEMI TRAILER 5 - FARM TRAILER 7 - CAMPER TRAILER 9 - PETROLEUM TANKER | | | | | | | | | |
| DRIVER INTENTIONS PEDESTRIAN ACTIONS | 1 2 | | 1 2 | | 1 2 | | 1 2 | | 1 2 | | 1 2 | |
| | 01 - GO STRAIGHT AHEAD | | 04 - REMAIN STOPPED IN LANE | | 07 - REMAIN PARKED - LEGALLY | | 10 - TURN RIGHT | | 13 - U TURN | | | |
| | 02 - SLOW OR STOP | | 05 - PASS | | 08 - REMAIN PARKED - ILLEGALLY | | 11 - TURN LEFT | | 14 - MERGE | | | |
| | 03 - START IN TRAFFIC LANE | | 06 - START FROM PARKED | | 09 - OTHER | | 12 - BACK | | 15 - PARK | | | |
| | 01 - CROSSING OR ENTERING INTERSECTION | | [CLOTHING 1 - DARK 2 - LIGHT & ROAD 1 - DARK 2 - LIGHT] | | 07 - PUSHING OR WORKING ON VEHICLE | | 10 - OTHER IN RDWY | | | | | |
| | 02 - CROSSING OR ENTERING OTHER | | 03 - STANDING IN RDWY | | 08 - OTHER WORKING IN RDWY | | 11 - NOT IN RDWY | | | | | |
| | 03 - WALKING IN RDWY WITH TRAFFIC | | 04 - GETTING ON OR OFF VEHICLE | | 09 - PLAYING IN RDWY | | 12 - OTHER | | | | | |
| | DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN VEHICLES (Name of Prop & \$ of Dam to Prop & \$ of Dam to Person) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | APPROX COST TO REPAIR | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | WITNESS FULL NAME | | ADDRESS | | | | | | | | | |
| WITNESS FULL NAME | | ADDRESS | | | | | | | | | | |

South Carolina

Original size of document - 8 1/2 x 11